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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH, 2019

Green group wants Bridgend County Borough to go plastic-free - page 3.

Council tax is set to rise by 5.4 per cent - see the full story on page 6.

Man's suspended sentence after 'single punch'

A STUDENT suffered a broken leg which involved a twisted fracture after falling from a single punch delivered by a man outside a bar in the centre of Cardiff, the city's Crown Court has been told, *writes AJ SICLUNA*.

Richard Canning (28) a Ford Bridgend employee, of Broadland, Bridgend, who admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Aaron Handley, was told by Judge Niclas Parry: "This is the kind of late night violence the public is fed up with.

"If he had hit his head on the pavement, you could be looking at five years for manslaughter."

He said the victim's life had been affected and accepted that the injury was not intentional.

Canning was jailed for 14 months, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £1,000 compensation, costs of £340 and £140 victim surcharge.

Prosecutor Emma Harris said the incident occurred in the early hours of October 26 outside the Buffalo Bar in Windsor Place, Cardiff.

Canning threw one punch.

He later said he had "bumped into" Mr Handley.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Handley said that his leg was two weeks in plaster, he rarely left home and had once been highly active playing rugby and cycling.

He added: "It was a vicious assault through no fault of my own."

Canning's solicitor Ed Mitchard said: "There was an early guilty plea, he apologised and gave bar staff his details. Initially, the victim didn't want to press charges."

He pointed out that the defendant led a very positive life and was a team leader at work and was in a position of responsibility.

"He takes part in the community and carries out charitable activities. He is at low-risk of re-offending."

'Reaching out to our military brothers and sisters saves lives'

THE GEM is always keen to show support for serving and past members of HM Armed Forces, and was delighted to attend a recent breakfast meeting of newly-established Porthcawl Veterans' Hub (PVH).

Now to be held at the Griffin Park Health & Wellbeing centre adjacent to the tennis courts behind Coney Beach and the bowling green this Saturday from 9am to 11am or so, it is an informal group of like minded-individuals, veterans and their families, and friends.

Also there last week were representatives from SSAFA and the Veterans' Project, on hand to give advice and a professionally-friendly ear.

The meeting had around double the number attending compared to previous weeks, with more turning up during the course of the morning. All Services were represented, and if interested in such things, a near 50-50 split of men and women present and correct.

Organiser John Fulcher, former donkey whalloper who left the Army in 2011 after numerous tours in recent wars, and is now often found working in security overseas, takes up the story.

"PVH was born off the back end of Warriors RV social media page which is run by a good friend called Sam Benson, also a fellow veteran and currently working in Lebanon.

"It's a community of over 10,000 current and former serving members and it hosts a whole lot of positive outcomes in terms of networking opportunities, job opportunities, and an extended hand of friendship for all who served."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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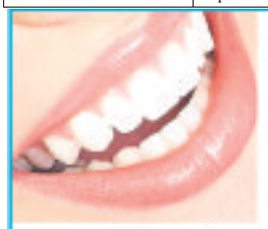

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‘Is the Conservative Party still trying to sort out an internal party row over Brexit?’

GEM readers won’t have failed to notice that the UK appears to have reached a political crisis point over Brexit.

The UK Government is paralysed, Prime Minister May has lost what little authority she had left and the level of uncertainty being impressed upon our communities and businesses is simply unacceptable.

If it feels to you like the Prime Minister hasn’t talked about anything but Brexit since she took office way back in 2016, you’d be right. She may have stood on the steps of Downing Street after taking over from David Cameron and underlined her desire to help those who were “just about managing” in our society, but instead, she’s led us down a path of political paralysis where none of the big issues which affect people’s everyday lives are being addressed by her government.

From the problems with Universal Credit, to concerns about policing, to the lack of infrastructure investment to help our economy, there are far too many important issues falling by the wayside while the Conservative Party continues to try to sort out its internal party row over Brexit.

Every week, when I speak to constituents in my advice surgeries, I’m shocked by the dire situation nine long years of austerity has had on far too many people. For me, the starkest illustration of this is the increasing number of people who are living in poverty but are in work. Is this really the type of society we want to leave for the next generation?

MP CHRIS ELMORE writes a column from Westminster.

Despite the Prime Minister claiming last year that she was going to end austerity, we’ve seen no signs of it yet. Worse still, she’s been trying to lead us down a path which the government’s own figures show will make our communities poorer. Her Brexit deal did not deliver for those who voted to leave the EU and at the same time it failed to answer any of the concerns of those who voted to remain.

Instead of bringing our country together, I believe PM May’s deal would only act to push us further apart.

Rest assured that I will continue to work with my Labour colleagues to help ensure that we find a way forward through this impasse so that we can get back to tackling the issues which are affecting people’s everyday lives.

‘Friends of Wilderness’ get a helping hand from local store

THE Friends of Porthcawl Wilderness have received sponsorship from the Porthcawl Co-op, which has sponsored litter pickers and hi-viz tabards for the team.

The lake and the environment are enjoyed by fisherman, allotment holders, the local community and visitors for its natural beauty and the flora and fauna.

The Friends have set objectives to:

• Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Wilderness Lake.

• Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of The Wilderness lake by the public.

• Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of The Wilderness and surrounding communities within Porthcawl.

The group is planning a litter pick around the Wilderness lake in early April 2019. This is one of many projects the group has planned for the year. The group are seeking volunteers to assist.

Please visit Friends of Wilderness Facebook page for more details

Social Services director blames solicitors for rise in law suits against councils

A NUMBER of families are making claims against Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) saying social services did not bring their children into care soon enough.

The council’s social services director Sue Cooper told councillors at a meeting on Monday there had been an increase in claims against children’s social services across Wales.

Speaking at the scrutiny committee meeting on budget monitoring, she said: “We’ve seen that [increase], and there’s a number of reasons for it – people are much more tuned into their rights, and solicitors are out looking for business.

“We do have some claims where families are making a claim against us that we didn’t bring their children into care early enough.

“It’s a bit of a fraught, complicated area because we also have the judicial system where the whole policy and process is of keeping families together.”

The local authority recently reclassified £2.3 million from the major claims reserve to its insurance reserve to cover potential insurance claims.

The council’s interim head of finance Gill Lewis told councillors: “From time to time we get things that emerge – one such thing is some old claims in the social care area.

“I have got to be very careful because some of these are subject to legal advice and I wouldn’t want to be too specific.

“We have prepared for some worst case scenarios where there may be some sort of claim against the council that we might have to defend.

“We have moved money from the major claims reserve into the insurance reserve so it’s a reclassification on the basis of legal advice and insurance advice.”

Councillors sitting on the corporate overview and scrutiny committee had questioned the reclassification during the meeting on Monday, February 11.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

For all the latest news from your area - **glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

Bridgend Quiz League results and teasers

THE results from the Quiz League for February 11 are:

Crown Maesteg 43, Tondu Railway Club 42; Mackworth Arms 43, Penybont AFC Nomads 46; TyRisha Arms 39, Five Bells A 40; Five Bells B 27, Oddfellows Arms 30; Chatterton Shunters 52, Cabo Roche 48; Pheasant Gamekeepers 37, Six Bells Clangers 53; Prince of Wales Coychurch 42, Laleston Inn B 46.

Here are the latest teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League for February 15:

1. Fahrenheit, Poison and Addict are perfumes from which fashion house?

2. In which modern day country is Mount Ararat?

3. In 1943, Lewis Wilson was the first to play which action hero on screen?

SK

Answers: 1. Christian Dior 2. Turkey 3. Batman

Funding sessions from local group

STAFF from the National Lottery Community Fund are offering pre-booked appointments to local voluntary groups and organisations to discuss funding opportunities at Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) in Maesteg on Thursday, March 14.

Any interested parties should check the eligibility of their project on The National Lottery Community Fund website www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk before making an appointment.To register your interest, contact BAVO on 01656 810400 or at bavo@bavo.org.uk by Thursday, March 7.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 21)

The high tides listed in this week’s GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	00.14	7.7	12.57	7.7
08 Fri	01.38	7.8	14.23	8.0
09 Sat	02.59	8.2	15.42	8.5
10 Sun	04.13	8.8	16.49	9.2
11 Mon	05.14	9.4	17.47	9.9
12 Tues	06.08	10.1	18.36	10.4
13 Wed	06.57	10.5	19.23	10.7
14 Thur	07.43	10.8	20.09	10.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

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New choristers swell the chorus of Bridgend choir

IT was great to see so many of Bridgend Male Choir's latest choristers on stage for the first time recently.

We are sure they will all join us in a busy 2019 when we will be performing many concerts and events, including the 52nd annual concert for Chelmsford & District Welsh Society at Chelmsford Cathedral.

The choir will also be competing in the world's largest male choral festival, the Cornish International Male Choir Festival 2019, where choirs from all over the world sing in over 50 concerts and events all over Cornwall.

The choir practices every Thursday between 7.30pm and 9.30pm in Oldcastle Primary School, South Street, Bridgend; so if you enjoy singing, why not contact our secretary, Gareth Reese on 07773 170373 and come along to one of our rehearsals?

Come alone, or with a friend to listen and check us out. You'll receive a warm welcome! **MJ**

Left to right: New members Gwyn Lewis, David Deeley, Stephen Bevan, Huw Jenkins, Brian Davies, Dylan Gibbs, David Cole, Robert Hood.

College project is shortlisted

STAFF at Bridgend College are, according to a spokesperson, "thrilled" that its Cyfleoedd team has been shortlisted for the National Association for Managers of Student Services (NAMSS) Awards 2019.

A new category this year, the Student Services Inspirational Project of the Year recognises a piece of work or completed project that inspired colleagues, learners and the local area. "'Cyfleoedd'," continued the spokesperson, "means 'opportunities' in Welsh, and the project aims to provide a collaborative workspace to enable students and employers to connect."

Winners of the NAMSS Awards 2019 will be announced at the annual conference in March.

£2.5m work on local bridges

IMPROVEMENT works totalling £2.5m will be spent on strengthening two bridges in Blackmill so that heavy goods vehicles can continue to travel along the A4061 between Bridgend and the Ogmore Valley.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will carry out the work between autumn 2019 and summer 2020. Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "These are two key structures that support the highway network so it is important to take proactive action to strengthen them now to ensure their longevity.

"The bridge works will ensure that heavy goods vehicles can continue to use this route for deliveries to and from businesses in the area. The works will support valley traders and residents alike, all while ensuring that an important and popular community route remains safe to use."

The road will remain open for the majority of the works, with some temporary road closures possible on weekends. **AS**

Green group wants Bridgend county borough to go plastic free

A PORTHCAWL-based charity, Sustainable Wales (SW), has launched a campaign to get local supermarket managers and UK bosses to slash their plastic packaging.

SW director, Margaret Minhinnick said: "Plastic-free campaigns are developing UK-wide, but the public cannot be expected to bear the burden alone."

She said that in recent weeks, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and also Porthcawl Town Council had joined the 'Surfers Against Sewage plastic-free towns' campaign. *https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/*

She continued: "We offer a range of plastic-free, refill schemes and remade goods in our shop, SUSSED in Porthcawl.

"Before the introduction of the 5p single use levy by the Welsh Assembly, SW employed a 'plastic bag free-Bridgend campaign officer' working with local traders and the council."

Plaid Cymru Cllr Tim Thomas said: "I am always keen to look at innovative ways to reduce our single use plastic and I welcome the initiatives from Sustainable Wales."

Mrs Minhinnick said: "According to Greenpeace and the Environment Investigation Agency (December 2018) the top 10 supermarkets collectively put more than 810,000 tonnes of plastic on the market each year. This is in addition to more than 1.1 billion single-use plastic bags, 958 million bags for life and 1.2 billion plastic produce bags for fruit and veg.

"There is also a shortage of plans in place to stem the flood. Most commitments made by supermarkets are weak, with room for improvement."

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Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.35%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.25%
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LOCAL VALE LAW FIRM WINS TOP UK AWARD 'SUCCESS STARTS WITH A GREAT TEAM'

Catherine Hartland & Alexandra Jenkins

Local Barry Law firm attended the prestigious Modern Law Awards in Manchester on Thursday 31January 2019 and were the only law firm from Wales to reach the finals, the only law firm to be finalists in more than 2 awards, and the only law firm to come away with three awards.

Catherine Hartland won Managing Partner of the Year UK

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Catherine Hartland says: *'the firm is only as good as the team it employs, and here at Newbold we believe we have a great team'.*

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A busy time, and a cupboard uncovered, at St John's House

ON February 23, a new museum for Bridgend will receive its first visitors.

The trust that looks after Bridgend's oldest habitable house has forged a partnership with another local heritage organisation to create Past Lives Museum at St John's House.

This new and permanent exhibition, called 'The Way We Were', will start off with a look at how people in and around Bridgend used to live, work, and generally spend their lives. The museum displays will be refreshed during the year and the curator, or volunteers, will be on hand to answer questions.

Also on the 23rd, students from Bryntirion Comprehensive history club will be re-enacting a Tudor school. This group of young people, who are passionate about the past, has worked hard to produce an engaging presentation and would really appreciate your support.

St John's House has also recently started a monthly quiz night, with well known Bridgend quizmaster Jacky Brown. Taking place in the United Services Club on Tondu Road, this month's quiz is on Friday, February 15 at 8pm.

This is very short notice for GEM readers, but we will be announcing other dates soon.

Volunteers have also started to share the results of archaeological work to reveal a cupboard which is set into one wall. Recently liberated from modern breeze blocks and plaster, this space comes complete with some Regency or early Victorian wallpaper, and the remains of old shelving.

The investigators, all St John's volunteers, used a special camera to gain tantalising glimpses of a mysterious space behind the back wall of the cupboard. This work is continuing and will offer visitors the chance to see archaeology in action for quite some time, and to learn about the work that has already been done…

For the full article, visit *www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk* and search for 'St John's House'.

For more information, visit *www.stjohnshouse-bridgend.org.*

Graham Mallaghan,
St John's House Trust.

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Rotarians enjoy Tesni's talk about Patagonia trip

TESNI Morgan recently visited Maesteg Rotary Club to give a presentation about her visit to Patagonia.

She gave a very articulate and detailed account of her time there, which was well received by all members present.

On the same evening, Ieuan Williams received a donation for a visit to Patagonia this year, which the club was happy to do as he has made a commitment to tell members about it on his return.

Local Miss Wales contestant Erin to host charity event next weekend

MY name is Erin Bryne and I am 17 years of age, living in the Cefn Glas area of Bridgend and I attended Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

I decided to pursue a career in hairdressing and I secured an apprenticeship at Beth Daniel Hair Designers in Bridgend, where I worked on Saturdays. I recently qualified after gaining my NVQ level 2 at the Academy of Hair and Beauty.

In November 2018, I came across an article looking for contestants to enter the Miss Wales competition this year and with much support and encouragement from my family and my boyfriend Morgan, an aircraft engineer in the Royal Navy, I decided to enter and I was delighted to be chosen to represent Bridgend at the final.

I have been extremely fortunate to have been sponsored by Gilmor Hair and Beauty, Bridgend, suppliers to the hair and beauty industry.

The Miss Wales organisation supports a wonderful charity, Beauty With a Purpose, which helps children worldwide and was set up by Julia Morley in 1972.

One part of the competition is to support this worthwhile charity, so I have organised a fundraising event, 'Cupcake and Prosecco Pamper Afternoon' at Beth Daniel Hair Designers, 20 Dunraven Place, Bridgend, on Sunday, February 24, and tickets (£5) are available from the salon.

I will be offering hair and makeup for a small fee, some fabulous goody bags donated by Gilmor and a raffle with prizes donated by the wonderful traders of Bridgend town.

I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to represent my home town of Bridgend. Whatever happens, this has been an amazing experience for me which I will never forget and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make this happen.

Erin Bryne,
Bridgend

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors/supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012 **P/18/951/FUL** New dwelling & detached garage ~ Affecting Footpath 5 Pencoed - Plot 12 Duffryn Oaks Drive, Pencoed by Peyton Property RESPOND BY: 27/02/2019	

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Council firmly denies claim that City deal cost has jumped by £9 million

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has dismissed claims that its contributions to the Capital City Regional deal over the next 10 years have jumped from £10 million to £19 million.

A BCBC spokesman said that the confusion had arisen from a table being misread.

The table in question (pictured) shows BCBC's contribution as £19.9 million. However, BCBC has pointed out that councils have different options on how to fund the City Deal, in which £1.2 billion will be made available to fund enterprise and infrastructure projects.

The vast majority of the £1.2 billion will come from the UK Government and the Welsh Government.

A total of 10 local authorities have been asked to contribute about £120 million, about 10 per cent of the total, which means BCBC's contribution is around one per cent.

The BCBC spokesman said: "The £19.9m is a hypothetical figure which was produced to demonstrate what each of the partner councils would end up paying in the event that they had to borrow money to meet their City Deal commitments.

"As BCBC intends to fund this through revenue, the true cost remains £11m which will be spread across a minimum period of 10 years or more."

Had BCBC chosen the option of borrowing all the money, over 25 years at three per cent, the final cost would have been £19.9 million, as stated in the table.

Philip Irwin

Local Authority Partner	%	£m
Blaenau Gwent	4.6%	9.7
Bridgend	9.4%	19.9
Caerphilly	12.0%	25.2
Cardiff	23.7%	50.0
Merthyr Tydfil	3.9%	8.3
Monmouthshire	6.1%	12.9
Newport	9.8%	20.7
Rhondda Cynon Taff	15.8%	33.3
Torfaen	6.1%	12.9
Vale of Glamorgan	8.5%	17.9
Total	100%	210.8

Veterans' Hub is there to help

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The page has lent its self to helping those in distress through PTSD, social, physical and psychological issues.

"A call to arms is sent out for all to see and act on; it has saved the lives of our military brothers and sisters, because sometimes the best medicine is a chat, a go to person who will listen, and also due to over stretched military charities who can't seem to get to everyone, so it's a means of self help.

"The above is what I wish to replicate here in Porthcawl, not only for soldiers, but also for their dependants.

"Not just a coffee and tea morning but to create an opportunity to make new friends of like minded individuals or friends that will stand together through good and hard times, a cascade list whereby an individual can make a call and for arguments' sake say an individual needs a lift from A to B and don't have their own transport they can rest assured that a fellow veteran or current serving individual will be there to assist.

"Or the wife of a husband currently serving who is deployed and just needs someone to talk to, they can reach out through our own network, and in the future perhaps create charity events, days out, and whatever else people come up with.

"Military agencies and charities can't help everyone which is why I really want to put Porthcawl on the map for a veteran and current serving friendly zone, Porthcawl has rich military history.

"We need as much support as possible to ensure this does not fall by the wayside and I'd look toward our town councillors and BCBC.

"There are a handful of councillors who have actively been supporting this, and I wholeheartedly take off my hat off to them and say a big 'thank you'."

As for the future, the scope and the will are there to develop the service as its users require and see fit. Watch this space.

CO

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‘Situation no longer as serious as it looked’ says Council Leader - but council tax is still set to rise by 5.4 per cent

SCHOOLS in Bridgend will no longer receive a one per cent cut to their funding next year under the final draft budget proposals released by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The local authority’s cabinet members had warned in the summer of having to make decisions previously thought “unthinkable” – saying the local authority had reached a “critical point”.

It said if financial pressures were not relieved the council would be forced to consider cutting “precious services” – closing libraries, leisure centres and day care services, ending full-time nursery education for three-year-olds and reducing budgets for primary, secondary and special schools.

However, last week council leader Cllr Huw David said that following the outcome of additional grant money from the Welsh Government and an improved funding settlement, the situation was no longer as serious as it had looked.

However there will be cuts to services and job losses, with the council having to find savings of £7.6m over the next financial year.

Cllr David said: “It will still be difficult next year, and there will be people who regrettably lose their jobs.

“There will be redundancies and services that will be cut – it’s not as dire as we thought it may be but it could be in future years.

“We have to set a balanced budget.

“We are hoping that when the Prime Minister says austerity is over it really is over and it needs to mean the funding increases for councils in Wales.”

Interim chief executive Mark Shephard added: “It’s still really challenging.

“The challenge we have is that the low hanging fruit has gone and we are constantly looking at what else we can do.

“£70m cuts over eight or nine years makes a huge difference to what the authority can do.”

Finance officers say that based on current assumptions and pressures, the council would have to make £35m cuts over the next four years.

Cabinet members approved the budget for 2019/20 on Tuesday, February 12 before it goes to full council the following week.

Below are some of the main points in the final draft budget for 2019/20.

Schools

There will no longer be a one per cent cut to school budgets as previously forecast.

In a scrutiny committee meeting last week head teachers from schools across Bridgend issued a stark warning to the local authority, saying any further cuts to their funding would result in standards dropping among children, larger class sizes and staffing levels being hit.

Cllr David said: “We have listened to teachers, schools and parents – it’s not something we have ever wanted to do.

“The Welsh Government settlement is not as difficult as we first expected, and its added some additional money so we are no longer proposing the one per cent budget savings.”

Last year the schools budget was just over £90.3m – the proposals now involve increasing that to £94.8m.

Cllr David said: “We recognise a large part of that £4.5m increase will go on awarding pension and pay pressures – most of the council tax increase will in fact go on that.

“It’s difficult for schools – some are saying they have very little flexibility in their budgets which is why they would struggle to make further cuts, particularly with pressures like significant increases in teachers’ pensions costs.

“The number of pupils in our schools is growing and there are additional pressures of funding additional learning needs.

“We have listened to the responses in the budget consultation and the feedback was ‘let’s protect social services and schools’”.

Council Tax

Council Tax will be going up by 5.4 per cent if the final draft budget proposals are approved by the full council.

Cllr David said: “We have funding pressures we can’t avoid – we have less funding from government but more pressures.

“We know every council in Wales will be increasing their council tax – with many broadly between five per cent and 10 per cent.

“A big driver for council tax increase is the increase in pension contributions for teachers, firefighters and police officers – it’s not increasing the pension they receive but funding the existing scheme.

“That decision is not by BCBC but by UK government.”

Each of the 10 local authorities covered by the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service contributes towards its budget.

The amount is based on the number of people living in each area – for 2018-19 the levy on Bridgend for the fire authority was £6.6m.

Cllr David said: “Lots of people don’t realise they’re paying for the fire service in their council tax as well as refuse collection, social services, homelessness services etc.

“As a council, the proposed increase in the fire authority’s levy on Bridgend is £330k, a 4.9% increase for which the council has received no additional funding.”

He added: “We have a rapidly ageing population in Bridgend, we have never provided so much home care support or supported as many adults with profound learning disabilities as we do now.

“For most people, these services are not visible unless your family member is receiving that support and you know it’s absolutely vital.”

Interim chief executive Mark Shephard said the local authority was looking at remodelling its services to “do things differently” while still providing services and managing demand.

Day care services and learning disabilities services

The council is no longer planning to close some of the day services it runs for older people and people with learning disabilities but will “remodel” some services.

Cllr David said: “We have listened to the public and they were clear they did not want to see closures.

“We needed to consider it when we started as we did not know what our financial situation was going to be – we share their view on how important they are.

“Our first principle if at all possible is to make services more efficient rather than withdraw that service because they are valued by the people they serve – if we can do things differently and collaborate more with neighbouring authorities, organisations and the third sector, we will.”

The council is looking to cut £50k in 2019/20 from its budget for day care services which could mean reduced hours at centres. There will also be a full review of services.

Leisure centres and pools

Since 2012 BCBC has worked in partnership with the charity Halo paying them a fee to operate its leisure services. These include eight leisure centres and five swimming pools.

The council is looking to negotiate cuts of £80k in 2019/20 to its contract with Halo with a further £30k the year after.

The local authority says it is not anticipating the cuts will involve closures of facilities.

Arts, culture and libraries

Since 2015 BCBC has been paying Awen Cultural Trust to deliver cultural services in the council which include nine libraries, The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl, Bryngarw Country Park and Maesteg Town Hall.

As part of its contract with Awen, BCBC plans to cut its management fee by £70k in 2019/20 with £60k subsidy cuts in 2019/20.

It means there will be a review of accessibility of services and there could be reductions in services or opening hours, or potential closure of Awen facilities such as community centres or libraries.

Transport

The council is looking to remove all its subsidies from bus service routes in the county from April which would save around £148k per year. A public consultation is currently ongoing and ends on March 10.

Bridgend bus station

The council is looking at cutting £90k – around half its funding to the bus station over the next two years.

It is looking at measures to explore full cost recovery and gain external financial support but warns if it fails the station will have to close to make the planned savings.

Mr Shephard said: “The plan is for the facility to cost us less – we are looking at charging bus operators more to use the station and commercial opportunities such as a cafe franchise.”

Nursery

Bridgend is one of the few local authorities to fund full time (30 hours per week) nursery places for three and four-year-old’s. The statutory minimum requirement is 15 hours per week.

The council will continue in 2019/20 to fund full time nursery places under the final draft budget proposals.

Cllr David said: “We had all options on the table – some members said we should consider only providing the statutory minimum requirement.

““We believe that every child in the county deserves a flying start and full time nursery education is vital to that.

From 2020/21 there are plans to cut the budget by £817k with a further £584k cut in 2021/22 – this would involve only funding the statutory minimum.

Removal of Post 16 transport

The council is looking to remove its home-to-school transport for post-16 learners from 2020/21, saving £500k.

At the moment post-16 learners attending sixth form in schools are able to use the local authority provided school buses while students at Bridgend College receive free transport, via a public transport bus pass.

A full 12 week consultation would be required first with a full academic year required before the policy is implemented.

The service will continue to be funded in 2019/20.

Recycling

Under the final draft budget, opening hours of the community recycling centres would be reduced by one hour every day.

There will be an increased charge for collection of three bulky waste items from £15.50 to £20.

And there would be higher charges for the green waste service from £28.30 per household to £38.30.

Before this can happen however contract negotiations would need to take place with Kier and there would have to be a public consultation regarding the charge changes and reduced levels of service.

CCTV

The 2019/20 budget involves a funding cut of £30k, almost 10%, for CCTV.

The council is to look at the feasibility of a joint funding arrangement with the police for CCTV.

Planning fees

Pre-application planning fees are set to rise by 10%.

Any changes would first need to be approved by the development control committee and cabinet.

Sports facilities and pavilions

The council aims to transfer its outdoor sports pitches and pavilions through Community Asset Transfer (CAT) by May/June 2020.

Costs to use facilities which are not transferred will increase by four or five times their current levels as the council ends its subsidies.

The council has said if rugby, football, bowls and cricket grounds are not taken on by sports clubs and people are not willing to pay the increased charges they will close.

The £300k cuts savings identified for 2020-21 will see the removal of the majority of the remaining seasonal operatives budget, again with cuts to plant, equipment and materials.

This cut will result in all of the outdoor leisure facilities effectively closing.

The remaining parks budget will be used to maintain the council’s main parks and children’s play grounds, highway grass cutting and to secure the ongoing site management and safety of the sites that will remain in council ownership, – but will no longer be maintained to a level suitable for the playing of outdoor sports.

Open space grass cut areas will be reduced and the 117 children’s play areas will be reduced.

Cuts of £140k to the parks and playing fields service will be split over two financial years.

Council officers warn it will have “a noticeable reduction” in levels of service.

Shopmobility

The council is to look at charging people who use the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend town centre.

It plans to to reduce its current level of subsidy by £5k in 2019/20 and £10k the following year.

The scheme offers people with a temporary or permanent mobility problem the opportunity to hire equipment such as electric wheelchairs and scooters.

The council warns the service which is non-statutory will have to close if plans to charge are not feasible.

The Leader of the Independent Alliance, Cllr Norah Clarke, said: “Obviously the additional funding is very welcome but only puts off inevitable cuts further down the line.

“Schools within Bridgend now not having the one per cent cut is great news as headteachers had already warned of staff losses, larger classes and school standards dropping. Most opposition members would not have supported the 1% cut in school budgets if it had gone forward.

“Hard decisions will need to be taken on Home to School transport as Bridgend provides transport over and above the statutory distance. Bridgend also provides 30 hours nursery provision again over and above the statutory number of hours.

“As members we all know that statutory services have to be maintained but when BCBC provides for services over and above what is required its the communities of Bridgend that suffer.

“Only so many services can be passed down to town and community councils as they haven’t got the staff to organise and take on the extra work that is needed. When services are passed down, it’s the residents of the area who have to pay more in order for that service to be funded. So they are not only paying their council tax, which goes up year on year but they also have to pay their community tax, which has to increase due to services being passed down from BCBC.”

Cllr Tom Giffard, Leader of the Conservative Group on BCBC said “I’m pleased that the council leadership has finally woken up to what opposition members have been saying for some time, and that is that cutting the schools budget is frankly unpalatable and shouldn’t have been on the table in the first place.”

“Cllr David is well aware that it is the Welsh Government, and not the UK Government that controls how much money is sent to local councils across Wales, yet across his lengthy comments, he did not once criticise his bosses in Cardiff Bay. Wales gets £1.20 for every £1 spent in England, so if he feels that Welsh councils are underfunded, he should be straight with the public and call out the Welsh Labour Government.”

“Since Labour have been in power in Bridgend, every chance they have had to increase council tax, they have taken it and now Bridgend has one of the highest levels of council tax in Wales. That can’t go on. So, we won’t support Labour’s budget and instead will be calling on the Council Leader to go to back to Cardiff Bay to properly fight our county’s corner.”

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

A full version of this article can be found on http://www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk/article.cfm?id=126266&headline

Judge salutes Lauren James of Wick YFC

TERPSICHOREANISM and thespianism took the YFC movement by storm last weekend at the county Entertainment Finals at Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, with an incredible display of talent from all seven clubs with Maendy YFC taking the accolade.

We were absolutely delighted our very own Lauren James (10) won the Most Promising under-14 Female Artist, gaining deserved praise from the judge who acknowledged Lauren's all round ability in singing, dancing and acting.

He was particularly impressed with her stage presence and her ability to captivate the entire audience at such a young age. Having previously caught another judge's eye at the last Public Speaking Day as chairperson of the Brainstrust team, Lauren certainly is a star in the making and an absolute asset to Wick YFC.

A keen gymnast, Lauren began Stage Coach at four years old, joining Revolutionise Dance at eight doing Acro and Lyrical dance under the superb tutelage of Holly Molino. Lauren absolutely eats, sleeps and dreams dance, constantly amazing us all with her acts as a contortionist.

She has already represented Revolutionise in both Blackpool and Kent and will shortly embark as part of the team representing Wales at the Dance World Cup in Portugal in July. May we wish Lauren and the team the very best of luck at this event.

Our play this year, When Dreams Come True written and directed by Charlotte Thomas centred around Lily, a little girl desperate to follow her dreams into dance and who better to take the lead role? Supported by our budding juniors Hollie (13) and Rhianna Jones (11) and Lucy (15) and Bel Roberts (11), both Lauren and Hollie choreographed the dance routines, demonstrating enormous flair and panache at such young ages.

Rhianna, another talented gymnast, supported Lauren throughout the play and performed an absolutely perfect piano solo which greatly impressed the audience. Lily required the blessing of her late grandmother (played by our vice chair Tori Powell) in order for her mum to allow her to follow her dreams. To achieve this Lily had to wait patiently and with much anticipation for the next blood moon in the hope of seeing her grandmother and gaining her consent.

Support came from the thoroughly adept chorus of Del Davies, Catrin Long, Lucy, Bel, Luke Holmes and Luke Morgan, with Aunt T delightfully played by Natalie Evans.

Our chairman Alex Edwards played Lauren's supportive dad with great charisma and magnetism much to the judge's delight and amusement particularly during his song and dance routine to Tom Jones' 'Love is Like Candy', which Alex performed for his o□cious wife played by Rose Lubin. We hadn't seen this side of our chairman before and we have to say we loved it.

This is Alex's first time as chairman of Wick YFC; he's done a fabulous job so far supporting and guiding the junior members, making Wick a fun and revitalising club to be part of.

As a club, we had an absolute ball taking part at this event and wish Maendy YFC enormous luck going forward to the Wales finals. Thank you to all the parents who gave their time so generously supporting our performance and to Sally Holmes yet again for her incredible costumes, Pam Morgans for her awe-inspiring art-work, Paddy Sheppard for the music, Rhodri Davies for lighting and technical, Del for make-up and Tom, Lloyd and Evan backstage.

Anyone wishing to join us at Wick YFC, please see our website at www.wickyfc.com for all our upcoming fun-packed events, vast variety of competitions and never-ending opportunities. We look forward to welcoming you; we promise you won't be disappointed.

Alisha Major

Professor launches new book on Iolo Morgannwg

IOLO Morganwg biographer and expert, Professor Geraint H Jenkins, will be visiting Cowbridge in March to give a lecture on the radical rebel.

One of the Vale's most famous sons' Iolo made many amazing contributions to Wales.

Y Digymar Iolo Morganwg [translation: The Unparalleled Iolo Morganwg] (Y Lolfa) by Professor Geraint H. Jenkins was published in October 2018. The volume is a comprehensive biography – the first for 'the most interesting Welshman ever brought up in Wales.'

The book offers an exciting new portrait of the genius of Iolo Morganwg and criticises academics who have long undervalued the contribution of the politician, patriot and visionary during the last two centuries.

The lecture has been organised jointly by Cowbridge Library, the local branch of Merched y Wawr and local author Gareth Thomas, who is also a great admirer of Iolo Morganwg and has published two novels about the interesting character – I, Iolo and a Welsh version Myfi, Iolo (Y Lolfa).

The talk will discuss some of the ideas published in the book.

"Iolo's forgeries are just a part of his overall story. By obsessing over them we lose his amazing contribution as a politician, author, historian, visionary and patriot," says Geraint H Jenkins.

The volume praises Iolo Morganwg's work as a brilliant literary forger, an excellent poet and a fervent republican. He was a strong Unitarian, fiercely against war and slavery. He worked throughout his life as a stonemason, in Glamorgan and England, often in awful poverty, and he became famous as an antiquarian, poet and radical.

The lecture will be at 7pm on Thursday, March 21, at Cowbridge Library. The lecture will be in Welsh. There will be light refreshments available and a chance to buy a copy of the book from a local bookshop – The Cowbridge Bookshop.

GJ

Geraint H Jenkins (left) and Gareth Thomas.

Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers recently enjoyed a sociable annual dinner at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

The committee organised the catering and past chairperson Pauline Collins thanked them on behalf of members for their hard work.

The next meeting takes place on March 6 at 7.30pm, when the demonstrator will be Elizabeth Gordon on 'Any ol' pot will do'.

New members always welcome.

JMS

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Portraits and masks

LLANTWIT Major Art and Craft group next meets on Friday, February 15 at 7.30pm in Llantonian Hall for the 'Image Makers Workshop' with Martin Kaye.

A spokeswoman said: "Local people can come along and join us to explore how we've made images and portraits of ourselves from the distant past to the present day.

"We'll look at masks from ancient and tribal societies and have a go at making our own mini symmetrical faces.

"Bring along an A4+ sketch book, perhaps some colours, scissors and a HB pencil. If you want to be more advanced, bring a cutting knife and mat. A fee of £3 is payable for non-members."

The group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month; prospective members and occasional visitors are welcome.

Big Screen goes Ga Ga in Cowbridge

BIG Screen's next film for this season is A Star is Born (Cert 15) on Thursday, February 21st at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

A musician helps a young singer find fame, even as age and alcoholism send his own career into a downward spiral.

Seasoned musician Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper) discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally (Lady Gaga). She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer - until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight.

But even as Ally's career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jack fights an ongoing battle with his own internal demons.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door)

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Clerk is suspended amid fears Sully Council could go bust

THE 16-month suspension of a clerk alleged to have images of an adult nature on his work computer is 'bankrupting' a small community council, councillors have said.

Emails leaked to the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) show the depth of concern in Sully and Lavernock Community Council at their financial plight. The council has effectively been paying for two clerks since September 2017 when David Roberts was suspended over the allegations of adult images and non-council-related work on his work PC.

His suspension on full pay has lasted for more than 16 months as an investigation into the allegations has not been resolved and an acting clerk has been hired by the council. In the leaked emails, one member urges the community council to resolve Mr Roberts' ongoing suspension, saying it is 'well down the road to bankrupting this council'.

The councillor calls on the public body to stop paying for 'two clerks and two groundsman's' salaries every month, to stop all capital expenditure and only fund essential revenue costs. He said he is yet to see any evidence behind Mr Roberts' original suspension.

David Roberts.
Image by Welsh Assembly.

More emails leaked to LDRS show the wage bill for the council is projected to be £80,000 on March 31, around half the council's expenditure, but its funding for 2019/20 could be cut to £132,000 – which means it would have to cut around £30,000 to balance its budget.

The council is understood to be looking to increase its council tax precept by 2.5 per cent next year.

Sully and Lavernock Community Council has refused to answer a Freedom of Information request from the LDRS asking how much disciplinary action against Mr Roberts has cost, or details of his salary. The LDRS has asked the Information Commissioner's Office to investigate.

Five councillors voted to suspend Mr Roberts at a council meeting on September 27, 2017 after concerns were raised. In a further meeting, the council voted not to notify the police of the allegations against Mr Roberts.

When approached by the LDRS for comment Sully Council said: "It would be entirely inappropriate for the community council to comment on anything pertaining to Mr Roberts. There are a number of reasons which include the confidentiality of the employment relationship and data protection."

Mr Roberts confirmed to the LDRS he is employed by the council as its clerk, but said: "This is a personnel issue which is confidential," and did not comment further.

Cllr Steve Oaten, chairman of the council, also declined to comment when approached by the LDRS.

Matt Discombe, local democracy reporter

'Banging the drum for independent traders'

IN the Vale, we're fortunate to have excellent independent traders, such as those on our High Streets in Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, which play a vital role in our local economy.

Over recent months I have spoken to small businesses across the Vale about the impact of business rates, which is regularly raised as a key issue.

As a strong supporter of our local businesses, I am pleased that the UK Government acted on these concerns, with the Chancellor's Budget announcement that business rates in England would be cut by a third.

Readers will note that this is a devolved matter, so the Welsh Government has received the necessary funding from Westminster to implement the same relief for businesses in Wales.

However, I am disappointed to see that the Welsh Government's High Street Relief Scheme falls significantly short of the relief in England, which will see some Welsh traders paying thousands of pounds more in business rates.

I am really keen to see the Welsh Government recognise the challenges faced by small business in the Vale and respond by matching the rate relief offered to businesses in England. This would give traders in the Vale the support they need and help to make Wales a more attractive place to do business.

Welsh Secretary
ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

We've got a fantastic opportunity in Wales to boost our economy, with measures such as the removal of the Severn tolls significantly helping to promote business growth.

In addition to the money for rates relief, the UK Government has agreed £300m of additional borrowing so that the Welsh Government can build the M4 relief road. These two decisions would mean be a huge help to traders, which will support job creation and uplift the Welsh economy.

I'll continue to bang the drum for small traders in the Vale. I know from my conversations with them what a huge difference a cut to the cost of business rates will make.

For many it will allow them to take on more staff or make improvements to their business which will benefit the whole of the Vale and further afield for years to come.

Her Majesty's Coastguard on Barry Island welcomes new team members

LAST summer the volunteer team at Barry Island Coastguard, based at Redbrink Crescent, held an open day.

They were looking to recruit four new volunteers to join the team. The day was a great success, and after interviews and medicals Dan, Gareth, Paul and Haden took up the positions.

After training days away with our full time staff and every Tuesday night with the team, the basic foundation training was complete. There is a lot to learn to be a qualified coastguard and they will continue to learn and train as the months go on.

This week Dan, Gareth, Paul and Haden go live on paged callouts. This means they each now carry a pager and can be called upon if and when someone dials 999 asking for the Coastguard in Barry or for the surrounding coastline area.

An HM Coastguard spokesperson said: "It is a great feeling to know we, as volunteer coastguards, make a difference to those who need it in a coastal emergency and are part of a fantastic team."

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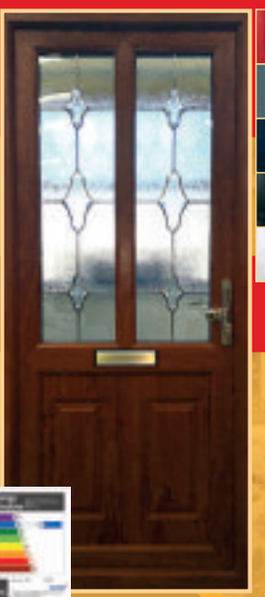

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City Deal: councillors claim that scrutiny system 'is not working'

CONCERNS over the level of scrutiny given to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal have been raised by those in charge of scrutinising the programme.

The joint overview and scrutiny committee consists of councillors from across the 10 local authorities represented within the £1.2-billion programme.

It meets up to four times a year, with the meetings funded by £25,000 from the City Deal's joint cabinet budgets.

The committee is due to meet again in May, September and December this year, with another meeting scheduled in March 2020.

However, there is dissatisfaction with the current arrangements, with members claiming the number of meetings is inadequate to carry out thorough checks on City Deal projects.

At a meeting in Newport recently, Cardiff councillor Ramesh Patel spoke of feeling "uncomfortable" about the level of scrutiny expected of the committee.

"This is a major once in a lifetime deal, and you can't just expect us to scrutinise the bare bones," he said.

"To only have four meetings and a budget of £25,000, it doesn't get us very far. It's a joke."

Cllr Patel argued that councils should approach Welsh Government for extra money for the committee given that a large part of the £734 million fund for the South Wales Metro is coming from Cardiff Bay.

He asked if greater scrutiny could be given to the Metro, but Kellie Beirne, director of the City Deal, said the Metro sat outside the £495m regional fund to which councils were contributing.

"Oversight on the transport side of things is more Welsh Government and Transport for Wales and I expect them to offer some joint scrutiny of that across the 10 authorities," she said.

"There are no more projects to scrutinise at this point, the [IQE facility] is the only project in the bag."

The committee had attended a site visit to the £38.5m facility and, at the meeting on the same day, received a presentation on the project from Monmouthshire council leader Peter Fox.

But Newport councillor Majid Rahman was confused about whether they were scrutinising or discussing the facility.

"I thought it was just a briefing; I didn't realise we were scrutinising," he said.

"If this is what's expected of us as a committee, we're just ticking boxes."

Vale councillor Vincent Bailey added: "This was a useful information gathering session but there was no detailed scrutiny."

"We're at a point where we're going into our third meeting [in May] but these don't feel like scrutiny sessions. They feel more more like a lecture from a public university course."

Niall Griffiths
Local democracy reporter

Setting of police council tax: a clarification

THE GEM has been asked to clarify a report in last week's edition (February 7) headlined 'Depleted police panel fails in bid to veto police council tax rise'.

The report, from a local democracy reporter, stated that there were not enough members present to vote against the rise. However, there *were* enough members, but too few voted against it at the meeting to veto the proposal.

Staying safe matters

FARMERS and those working in the agricultural industry need to ensure that farm safety remains on their priority list and that they comply with the relevant health and safety regulations.

The FUW, as part of the Wales Farm Partnership (WFSP), a collaboration of all the key agricultural stakeholder organisations in Wales, is reminding rural families that children should not be in the workplace; that it is illegal for under-13s to ride on agricultural vehicles or machinery and that work equipment like ATVs should not be used by children.

Did you know that being struck by or run over by farm machinery or visiting vehicles is the biggest single cause of children being killed on farms? Sadly, accidents most frequently reported in the UK involve falling from tractors and ATVs or quad bikes.

Danger really lurks everywhere. Year after year, we hear of tragedies involving children on farms drowning or being asphyxiated, being crushed, hit by falling objects or collapsing stacks and injured by animals.

At a working farm unsupervised children, who are naturally inquisitive and often fearless, can face risk from almost everything in sight as well as the human element - the unsuspecting family member, visitor or delivery person who drives onto the yard. In addition it is worth reminding ourselves that 33 people were killed in agriculture across Britain in 2017/18 - around 18 times higher than the all-industry fatal injury rate.

That means 33 families have lost a loved one. We also know that in the last 10 years, almost one person a week has been killed as a direct result of agricultural work and many more have been seriously injured or made ill by their work. It is worth remembering that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those who fall below the required standards, especially where children are involved.

Life is never the same again for family members left behind after a work-related death, or for those looking after someone with a long-term illness or serious injury caused by their work. With this in mind, the Union remains committed to highlighting best practices to help farmers avoid becoming a farm accident or fatality statistic; but it can't be stressed enough that the person responsible for farm safety is the person in the mirror.

There are some bad examples out in the public eye with regard to farm safety at the moment, so please - make the promise to yourself and your family that farm safety, your safety and that of your family and co-workers, will be a top priority.

Rachel Saunders of the Farmers' Union of Wales writes on Farming Matters.

Minky business

MINKY is a four-month-old Lurcher who is full of beans and has lots of energy to burn, so he is looking for a very active home.

Minky can be a little worried in new situations, but it does not take him long to gain confidence and show his "cheeky" side.

He must live with another dog already in the home to help with his confidence building and socialising. Training classes are essential and these can be provided by Dogs Trust Dogs' School.

Minky can live with children aged eight years and over, but unfortunately he is unable to live with cats or small furries.

For more information on Minky, visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Ploughing and Hedging Society makes plans for the coming year

John Watts with his Allis tractor at Bridgend Show, 1998.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held its first meeting of the year at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark on February 7.

Chairman Andrew Studley welcomed the 14 committee members and requested that all present stand in silence for a moment in memory of John Watts, a loyal member of the Society, who died in January.

It was agreed that tractor run fundraising raffles will be donated to the Parkinsons UK Fund in memory of John.

The annual ploughing match will be held on September 8 at Ty Draw Farm, St Mary Church, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 4QL, by permission of Julian Radcliffe and family. Horse and steam engine ploughing will be demonstrated throughout the day. The judges for all classes have been appointed. All entries must be lodged by August 25 to be included in the event programme.

Further information on events and membership from the secretary on 01446 710610 or 07976 950680.

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Penarth Ramblers enjoy a sub-zero coastal walk

THE day after the recent fall of snow, Clive from Penarth and District Ramblers stayed close to home so travelling would be cut to a minimum, and met up with a group of 15 keen walkers at Cosmeston Country Park.

They set off in perfect walking conditions under blue skies while underfoot the ground was still frozen, and despite the bright sunshine, the temperature remained just below freezing for the whole walk.

Tramping beside the eastern lake with its wildfowl, the pathway led them on beside the remnants of the old landfill sites, which since Cosmeston was developed as a country park have become the east and western paddocks; and circumnavigating the top quarry they made for Cogan Wood.

Exiting and crossing the footbridge over Sully Brook, fields led them uphill where farm tracks brought them around the listed 19th century stone barn at Home Farm and over a stile for the journey along Cog Road into Sully village.

A low wall on the path into St John the Baptist Church afforded them seating for their refreshment break and refreshed, they crossed South Road passing the pretty Dunster Cottage following the pathway southwards to Sully Bay.

With glorious clear views out into the Bristol Channel to the islands of Flat and Steep Holm, they joined part of the Wales Coast Path and headed above the rocky beach along the public art trail to reach Swanbridge.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, a small but active port was sited at Swanbridge which exported and imported goods across the Bristol Channel. Passing the delightful Swanbridge House, once part of the Bute family estate, they continued along St Mary's Well Bay Road.

Re-entering Cosmeston, they passed Cosmeston Medieval Village, a reinvention of a mid-14th century medieval village after the site of an actual medieval village was discovered during excavations in 1978, when the park was being created.

Circumnavigating the western lake and following Mile Road, originally built by the Bute family, they returned to their start past the animal, fish and bird sculpture and the recently established wooden footbridge and roundhouse, after a very pleasant half day walk.

On February 16, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk from Llangattock taking in the Lonely Shepherd, Twr Pen-Cyrn and the old tramroad; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On February 17, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 7.5-mile moderate circular coastal walk from Oxwich to Port Eynon with lunch in the Ship Inn at the halfway stage; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the leader for advice. For up to date information log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com and Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Saying 'ta-ta' to the Tonka

IN what might be a blink-and-you'll-miss-it moment, the RAF's venerable, and recently-retired, Tornado will be making a circuit of the UK beginning next week, and taking in Cardiff Airport, MoD St Athan and Pembrey Sands en route.

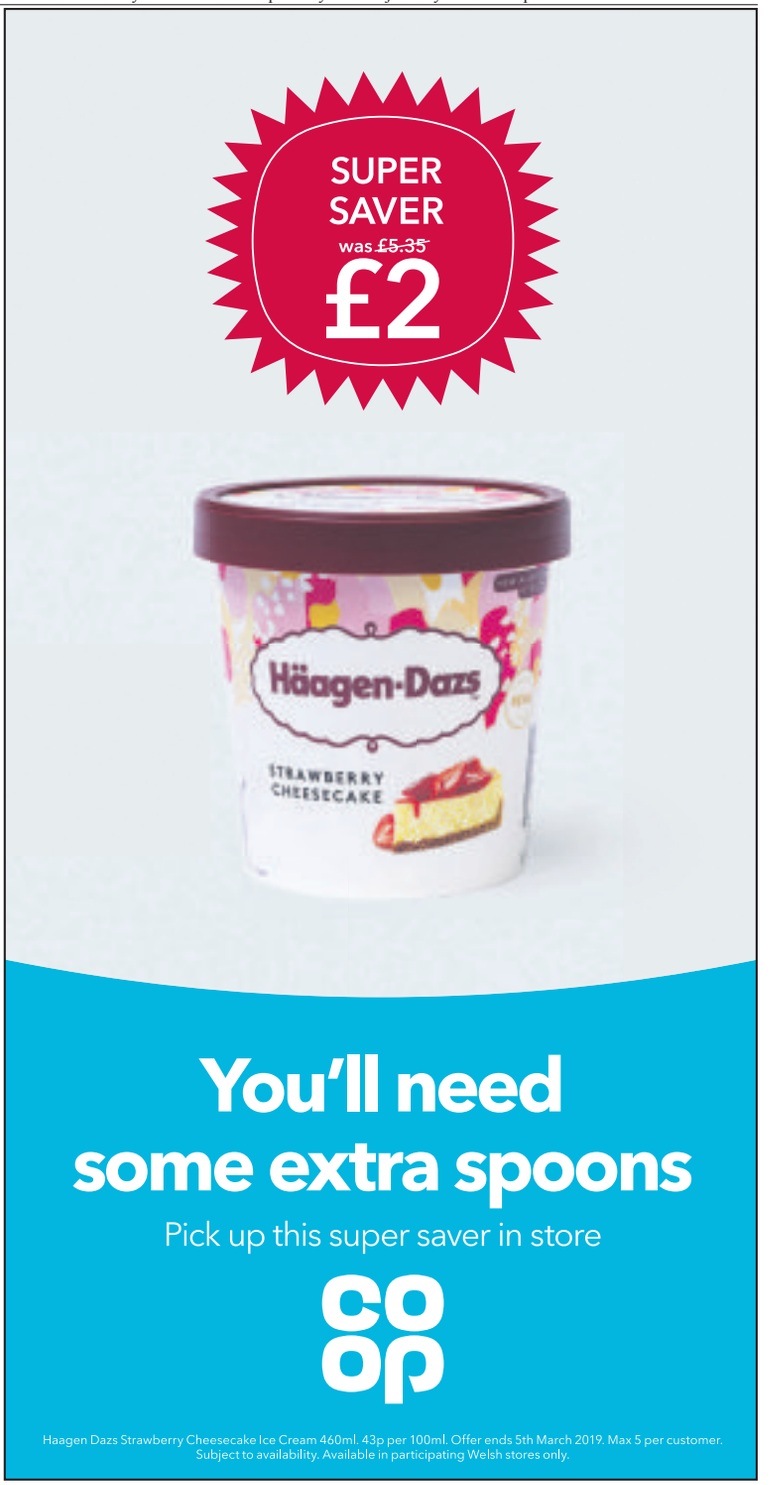
The flight is due – always with the caveats of aircraft serviceability and fair weather dependent – to reach MoD St Athan next Wednesday (February 20). The scheduled time is yet to be released.

The Panavia Tornado (designed and built by the UK, West Germany, and Italy; the French pulled out) entered service with the RAF in 1979, but only drew blood some 12 years later in the Gulf War. She has reportedly been on ops constantly for all bar 18 days since 1991.

The Tonka, as she is affectionately known, was retired from operational service earlier this month, when the last aircraft, stationed in Cyprus, returned from sorties against Daesh just days before as part of Op Shader. She will be officially withdrawn at the end of March.

However, Tonka fans take heart; a Tornado GR1 will soon be making an appearance in the Vale.

See a future edition of The GEM for more details.



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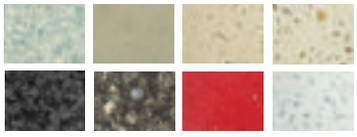

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Out & About with The GEM

Green Book a tried and tested tale given fresh impetus...

PETER Farrelly will be best known for directing, along with his brother Bobby, the likes of Dumb and Dumber and There's Something About Mary, comedies that make his first solo venture into directing something of a surprise.

Green Book is a world away from those coarse comedies, telling the true story of Tony Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), a man who, having been brought up working the nightclubs of the Tri-State area, finds himself in a job as driver for pianist Dr Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali).

Taking the doctor to the Deep South (an area, in 1962, that was in many places segregated and less than tolerant of non-white people), the pair see first-hand the divisions of the United States and slowly learn from each other...

The set-up for Green Book is a shopworn one. After all, how many stories can be told, how many films made, about people from different backgrounds learning tolerance and respect in a world that, more often than not, affords at least one of the characters little or none?

So by rights, this should be a paint-by-numbers film that, come the credits, will leave you feeling that overwhelming sense of over-familiarity.

Yet under the direction of Peter Farrelly and the magnetic and absorbing lead turns from Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali, Green Book is far more than the sum of its parts, a touching, emotional and at times

SCREEN TALK with GARETH JAMIESON

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powerfully compelling look at a time not so long ago.

Peter Farrelly would be one of the last people you would expect to be tackling material like this, but his background means that the film takes a lighter touch than expected. Farrelly shows a great sensitivity in his direction, and invests the central relationship between Tony and Don with plenty of depth.

What it also means is that when trouble arrives in the shape of racist policemen or bar patrons, you get a short, sharp jolt to remind that it's not all fun and games and life lessons; that there is historical significance and weight to this story.

Mortensen and Ali have both been Oscar-nominated for this film (Mortensen for lead actor, Ali for supporting actor) and it's their performances and their chemistry that help to make this film so satisfying.

Mortensen's Tony is shady but decent, a man trying to do his best for his family with what he was given, and he sees his job with Shirley as a way to keep doing that.

What is pleasantly surprising is that normally in these films, we see the rough edges of this type of character sanded away with little subtlety. Here, through Mortensen's wonderful turn, we see a character slowly and gently altering his world view, his eyes opened by life on the road and the experiences of others.

Ali, meanwhile, is absolutely magnetic here, the character of Shirley a complicated, layered one that the actor essays to perfection with a stilted and haughty air that gives way to emotional vulnerability underneath.

While this is a world that Tony has hardly seen, high-class parties and rarified individuals keen to praise at the altar of such a talented musician, Ali conveys brilliantly the fact that this is a world he is all too keenly aware of – a world where he can play piano in a restaurant but be barred from eating there because of the colour of his skin, be applauded by audiences who see his ability through eyes that all too quickly lose their colourblindness once he leaves his piano.

It is both uplifting and heartbreaking at the same time, and it's wholly driven by the two central turns.

At 130 minutes, it's a film that perhaps drags a little bit, while the climax of the film, which should be positive and affirming, lacks that emotional punch, especially given how well it's taken you on this story of these two disparate characters. However, Green Book is still a wonderful film, and its engaging power makes it one to seek out.

VERDICT: Peter Farrelly's move from gross-out comedy to more serious fare feels effortless (in fact, it's the best thing he's put his name to in nearly 20 years) as Green Book is a powerful and compelling story that benefits greatly from his light touch.

The performances from Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali are exceptional, and some slips aside, this is a superb piece of filmmaking. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Hidden Figures (2016), Marshall (2017).

Barry Railway brought to life in new book

A 'BARRY Railway Drawings Book' has been published covering the locomotives and rolling stock of the Barry Railway, which operated in south Wales from 1888 until 1922.

It is the second volume in the Welsh Railway Records series.

At the heart of the book are drawings by Mike Lloyd and Trefor Jones which were published in the railway press many years ago. Now those drawings have been brought together in one volume. They include drawings of all classes of Barry Railway locomotives, examples of coaches, wagons, vans and brake vans.

There are also new drawings of the Barry Railway motor car, a type of steam railcar, which ran on the Vale line between Barry and Llantwit Major.

The book is a mine of information about Barry Railway and includes an authoritative index of all the locomotives and rolling stock used by the railway in its 34-year history, which includes the numbers of every locomotive, coach and wagon, their date of construction and the names of the builders who manufactured them.

If you are interested in the book there is more information at www.wrrc.org.uk.

A Fair Lady arrives at The Paget Rooms

THE Concept Players return to the Paget Rooms this month with probably the most famous musical of all time, My Fair Lady.

This popular Lerner and Loewe musical made a star out of Julie Andrews and went on to be an Oscar-winning film. It follows the machinations of Henry Higgins, who has bet his friend, Colonel Pickering, that he can take a common Cockney flower seller, Eliza Doolittle, and pass her off as a lady.

Eliza is keen as she wants to improve her prospects: but the path to becoming a lady is not smooth.

The show is packed full of great songs such as 'Wouldn't It Be Loverly', 'With a Little Bit of Luck', 'The Rain in Spain', 'Get Me to the Church on Time', 'On the Street Where You Live' and, of course, 'I Could Have Danced All Night'.

My Fair Lady opens at the Paget Rooms on Thursday, February 28 and runs to March 2.

Box office: 029207 08037 or online at www.concept-players.com. All performance are at 7:30pm, tickets £12.

For further information contact Ruairidh MacLeod Lyon publicity officer on 029207 08037 or publicity@concept-players.com.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

What's on and where in your area

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, February 14, Cowbridge Art Society will hold a demonstration of mixed media techniques involving acrylic and modelling paste by Jude Lowery.

On February 21 will be our annual calendar competition evening when members' paintings will be selected for the 2020 CAS calendar.

CAS meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and occasional visitors (small fee) and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's programme and activities collect a programme from the Old Hall, or see www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas or Instagram#cowbridgeartsociety.

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent Councillors will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, February 16 from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issues to raise are welcome to attend.

Ward Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court Wards will hold their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 16 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, King Square from 10am until 11am. No appointment is necessary.

Mayor's Youth Concert

ON Saturday, February 16 the Mayor of Llantwit Major will hold the annual Youth Music Concert in St Illtud's Church to showcase young local talent.

This year's performances include sets from Llantwit Major School, Stage Door 1, Atlantic College, Major Music and more. It is the fourth year the concert has taken place and it is sure to be another inspirational evening. Tickets cost £5, available from Llantwit Major Town Council's Office in the Town Hall or call 01446 793707.

All proceeds donated to Mayor's chosen charities: Headlines, Age Connects and St Illtud's Church restoration fund.

Lunchtime Concerts at All Saints' Barry

THE monthly series of lunchtime recitals continues this month with an organ recital by the organist and choirmaster of All Saints', James Bull on Saturday, February 16.

The music will be enjoyable for all tastes and ages and there will be a big screen to enable you to watch the organist play!

Music at Lunchtime concerts at All Saints' are held monthly on the third Saturday. Doors open at 12.30pm and concerts start at 1pm and last around an hour. The audience are invited to bring their lunch and tea, coffee and sometimes homemade cakes are available to purchase. Free entry, but donations accepted towards church maintenance. More information on www.allsaintsbarry.org.uk or email music@allsaintsbarry.org.uk.

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, February 17 meet at the beach car park, Gileston (CF62 4HX) at 2pm for a walk to East Orchard Castle.

On Wednesday, February 20 the Coffee Shop Strollers of Barry meet at 10.30m at the Bridge Cafe car park, Cold Knap.

The same day, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Cowbridge meet at the Physic Garden fountain in Cowbridge at 2.30pm.

Messy Church

MESSY Church will be held on Sunday, February 17 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop) from 2.30pm – 4pm.

A warm welcome is extended to youngsters (and toddlers with their parents) for fun activities, crafty things to make, a Bible story, some singing and refreshments.

For further information call Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020, Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

Universal Credit event

A COURT and Gibbonsdown Universal Credit information event takes place on Wednesday, February 20 from 3pm–6pm at Gibbonsdown Childrens Centre.

It is open to all residents and various organisations attending include Barry Citizens Advice, Vale Foodbank and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Supporting People Team and Private Landlord Officer, plus the event organisers, local councillors for Court, Bronwen Brooks and Sandra Perkes and for Gibbonsdown, Julie Aviet and Margaret Wilkinson.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, February 23 from 2pm-4pm. To book a table call 02920 711657.

Park Crescent Neighbourhood Watch

THE Park Crescent community and neighbourhood watch group in Barry will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at The Park pub back lounge bar at 7.30pm.

PACT meetings

Ogmore Valley PACT at Dinam Close on Monday, February 25 at 6.30pm.

Bettws PACT at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, February 14 at 2pm.

Llangeinor PACT at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor on Wednesday, March 6 at 5.30pm.

Bryncethin PACT at Nazareth Chapel on Wednesday, March 6 at 6pm.

Caerau PACT at Noddfa Community Centre on Monday, March 11 at 6pm.

Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Llangynwyd PACT at Cwm Calon Day Centre on Thursday, March 14 at 6pm.

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Allwch chi gyfrannu at genhadaeth Cyngor Tref Y Barri o greu cymuned gynhwysol er lles holl drigolion Y Barri? Ydych chi'n chwilio am gymorth ariannol i'ch helpu i lwyddo?

Y llynedd darparodd Cyngor Tref Y Barri arian i fwy na 50 o grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol yn Y Barri. Eleni, darparodd y Cyngor £32,000 ar gyfer grantiau i fudiadau sy'n gymwys. Mae pecynnau cais, gan gynnwys y meini prawf ar gyfer grantiau, canllawiau a ffurflenni cais ar gael yn awr yn electronaidd ac ar bapur.

Mae Cyngor Tref Y Barri hefyd wedi darparu tri grant o £1,000 ar gyfer busnesau bychain yn Y Barri.

Mae Cynllun Grantiau Busnesau Bychain newydd Cyngor Tref Y Barri yn anelu at helpu gwella busnesau sydd wedi'u sefydlu'n barod yn Y Barri a manteisio i'r eithaf ar eu potensial i dyfu. Mae'r Cyngor wedi ymrwymo i weithio tuag at Y Barri Ffyniannus fel un o'i saith nod llesiant. Yn ei Gynllun Corfforaethol, ymrwymodd y Cyngor i hyrwyddo busnesau lleol a chefnogi economi leol lwyddiannus yn Y Barri. Mae Y Barri Ffyniannus yn golygu pobl sgilgar sydd wedi'u haddysgu'n dda, cynhyrchu cyfoeth i'r economi leol, darparu cyfleoedd am swyddi, sicrhau swyddi da a mynd i'r afael â thlodi.

Rhaid danfon ceisiadau ar neu cyn 11 Mawrth 2019.

Bydd staff y Cyngor ar gael, trwy wneud apwyntiad, i helpu mudiadau wrth wneud eu ceisiadau. Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth neu i wneud apwyntiad gydag aelod o staff i gynorthwyo gyda'ch cais ebostiwch robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01446 738663. Er mwyn cael pecynnau cais cysylltwch ag Emily Forbes, Prif Swyddog (Clerc y Dref), Swyddfeydd y Cyngor,7 Heol Gladstone, Y Barri, CF62 8NA / info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

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In addition, Barry Town Council has made available three £1,000 grants for small businesses in Barry.

Barry Town Council's new Small Business Grant Scheme is designed to help improve already established businesses in Barry and maximise their potential for growth. The Council is committed to working towards A Prosperous Barry as one of its seven wellbeing goals. In its Corporate Plan, the Council has committed to promote local businesses and support a thriving local economy in Barry. A Prosperous Barry means skilled and well educated people, generating wealth for the local economy, providing employment opportunities, securing decent jobs and tackling poverty.

Applications must be returned by or before 11 March 2019.

Council staff will be available, by appointment, to assist organisations in completing their applications. For more information or to book an appointment with a member of staff to assist with your application email robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01446 738663.

For application packs please contact Emily Forbes, Chief Officer (Town Clerk), Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry,CF62 8NA / info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

@Barry Town Council @barry_tc www.barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Beekeeping going computerised?

News from the Fonmon Apiary

WINTER did put in a brief appearance, and it certainly put a stop to any external activity of the colonies.

However, with westerly winds now replacing the northerly winds, plus the rising temperatures, all of the colonies are venturing out and returning with pollen.

The monitoring of the varroa mite is still ongoing and when I study the debris that falls through the mesh floors into the collecting trays, the presence of immature mites informs me that the queens must be laying: laying queens equal laying mites!

The breeding cycle of the varroa is in line with that of the bees.

As yet, I have resisted the temptation to open up any of the colonies to check for eggs and larvae. Some days have been suitable, but it is best to leave things well alone for now and leave the bees to run things.

The cleaning of hive sections and frames is well under way now, all old comb is removed from the wooden frames and the empty frames are put into a steam cleaner and this kills off any of the eggs that the dreaded wax moth may have laid in them. The steamer is made up of a water boiler (discarded tea urn) with the lid adapted to accept the hose from a wallpaper stripper, it works superbly.

To preserve the drawn combs that will be put to use very shortly, they are stored in large plastic storage boxes with secure lids. These will prevent access of the moth and with a container of acetic acid in with them this will ensure that any eggs will not hatch out into larvae. Wax moth larvae will very rapidly render your drawn combs unusable.

A new season is upon us and I will have a PhD student visiting the hives with me. The purpose of the student's visits is to record and collect molecules given off by the inhabitants of the hives and analyse them using gas chromatography. This is going to open up a subject of which I have very little knowledge. It has long been a desire of mine to introduce a monitoring system that will provide the levels of sound, temperature and humidity within a colony, but as yet I don't really know how to get to grips with the electronics that will be required.

Being able to record these variables onto an SD card for study on a computer can only improve our knowledge of the internal machinations within and reduce the practice of opening up the colony to the detriment of the occupants.

Harold Williams

Barry church choir sings in St Paul's

ON a cold and frosty Friday morning on December 29, the choir of All Saints' Barry departed for London.

That evening was to be a momentous occasion in the choir's history as, for the first time, following weeks of preparation, they were to sing choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in the heart of the City of London.

Choral Evensong is a 45-min long peace-inducing church service in which the 'song' of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the 'even' point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for contemplation; church members, agnostics and atheists alike.

It is both free of charge and free of religious commitment, and its 470-year-old choral music tradition, established around 1549, is performed live and often to a very high standard.

Arriving at 2pm that day, choristers spent most of the afternoon rehearsing the music which included 'Alyeward Reponses,' Canticles by William Harris in A Major and an anthem, 'The Christmas Lullaby,' by John Rutter.

What was even more awe-inspiring was the fact that the usual Evensong congregation, which usually totals no more than 20 people in attendance, grew to a staggering 1,500 people, with the choir's beautiful sound ringing around the walls of this ancient building.

The choirmaster of All Saints', James Bull, was delighted with the effort each and every chorister put into the polished performance: "It will remain a memorable day in the choir's history, and we were very grateful for the tremendous support we received from parishioners."

The choristers range in age from 16 to 80 years old and all willingly give up their time to lead the worship at All Saints', Barry, freely. In April 2019 they continue their travels by singing at Exeter Cathedral for the weekend.

JB

Shutterbugs' winter is warmed away by pictures of foreign climes

THE Vale Photographic Club's Pam and Cled Lewis, two of the longest standing members, presented a fact-filled and gloriously photographed tour of India and Burma that left everyone longing to book their tickets to visit.

Johnnie Rogers gave a superb talk on his passion for monochrome images, demonstrating the artistic and thought-provoking nature of the genre.

The following week, members were invited to bring images for constructive critique. This is an event that is held a couple of times each year and is rising steadily in popularity.

The club is friendly, with more experienced members happy to pass on knowledge and expertise. What is also exciting is that newer members are happy to chip in and add a new perspective to looking at images, while developing their critical skills.

The month was rounded off by the annual competition 'Three in Harmony', judged by Mike Davies. This year there were more entries than ever before, with Guy Butler Madden the winner, with images of frost covered leaves.

The Vale Photographic Club meets on Friday evenings at Ystradowen Village Hall between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Non members welcome; see website *www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk.*

Cost of firefighters' pensions will push up council tax

SOUTH Wales Fire and Rescue Service will take more money from each of its 10 areas in case firefighter pension increases are not funded by UK Government.

The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service approved a budget of nearly £75m instead of the recommended lower budget of just under £72m for 2019-20.

This means the contribution from each of the 10 areas will go up by just over five per cent from last year compared to a rise of 0.93 per cent if they had opted for the lower increase.

From 2019 to 2023, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's pension contribution is expected to go up by nearly 10 per cent – or nearly £3m, which is 4 per cent of its total budget.

The authority says that they still don't know if this increase will be funded by central government.

The South Wales Fire Service treasurer Chris Barton told members HM Treasury had changed the way firefighters' pensions are valued but that they had had confirmation of funding in England.

When councils were consulted about whether to set a lower or higher budget given the uncertainty over pensions, five voted for higher and five for lower.

Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport favoured a lower rise with Cardiff, Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and the Vale of Glamorgan backing a higher rise.

Mr Barton said that if they approve a higher budget, then they send the message to central government that they can afford it.

He said: "I am recommending a lower level on the assumption that we get funding but if it doesn't come, then we will have to revisit. Consideration will be given to a supplementary budget if central government funding is not subsequently confirmed."

Mr Barton said that councils are absolutely aware of the risks that setting a lower budget could mean the authority comes back to ask for additional money.

The authority agreed that if the funding does come forward from central government, officers will be given the power to make sure councils are reimbursed for the higher rise in their contributions.

Eight voted in favour of the higher increase, with seven voting against.

In terms of their individual contributions to the budget and the increase since last year, the approved budget for BCBC and the Vale would be in Bridgend, £7.019m (a 4.94 per cent increase) and in the Vale of Glamorgan, £6.29m (a 4.76 per cent increase).

Anthony Lewis,
Local democracy reporter

Church's dementia meeting place

DO you suffer from, or care for someone with dementia?

Would you like to attend a new free meeting place in Barry? Come to Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry, CF63 1JY, from 12 noon until 3pm on the following Thursdays: February 14, 21 and 28; March 7, 14, and 28 and on Wednesday, March 20.

Come and enjoy bingo with a free meal for all people affected by dementia and one carer. A free food bag will also be given to the person affected by dementia. Travelling expenses can be reimbursed.

Send your name and a contact telephone number by letter to: Cadoxton Multicultural Voluntary Community Cafe, 97 Main Street, Barry CF63 2HL.

NC

Valeways walkers are tackling stress

THE walking group Valeways recently enjoyed the sun at Cosmeston Park, and tackled stress at the same time.

A spokeswoman said: "Psychotherapist Noel McDermott said there are some simple steps to improving your mental wellbeing. They include: getting enough sleep, meditation, doing housework, gardening, ignoring your phone, getting a pet, smiling, getting more friends, exercise and going outside.

"While it may not be possible to alter your body clock to get more sleep, the Living with Cancer strollers can help you smile more, get exercise outside and meet more friends!

"February's stroll around Cosmeston certainly made everyone smile as the sun shone, then showers nearly caught us and mud pools were avoided. We took a new route to take in the new bridge.

"If you prefer a leisurely walk in good company rather than improving your wellbeing by hoovering, or tidying the garden, then join us at Cosmeston on the first Thursday of every month at 10.30am. For more information about walking and volunteering with Valeways, visit www.valeways.org.uk"

LFR

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

"Vale Council services are under threat because of reduced Welsh Government funding," says managing director

MANAGING director Rob Thomas has warned that Vale Council services are under "serious threat" as a consequence of reduced funding.

The council has made savings of £55 million in the last nine years and needs to find a further £15m in the next three years. Of a reported annual budget of £225m, a saving of £5m a year represents around 2.2 per cent.

Reductions in funding provided by the Welsh Government, inflation and increasing pressures in services have left a shortfall between the cost of running council services and the money available to spend.

Council Tax rose by 3.9 per cent in the Vale last year in order to help bridge this gap; that was among the smallest increases in Wales, with many local authorities opting for a far more dramatic rise.

Speaking to BBC Wales Today, Mr Thomas stressed there will be serious consequences unless there is an acknowledgement of the value and importance of a range of local services provided by the council as well as a recognition of the increasing costs associated with providing them.

These services range from social care to education as well as public transport, neighbourhood services, environmental health, planning, economic development and housing. "I sympathise with residents because people are paying more, council tax is increasing," he said.

"The simple fact is, it's increasing because the money we get from Welsh Government is decreasing. We need to fill the gap, but this isn't filling the gap completely and much-valued public services are under real threat if the situation continues."

The £151.923m Welsh Government funding the council is expected to get in 2019/20 represents a reduction of 0.7 per cent, or £1.037m, from the previous year.

In real terms, when taking into account inflation and other factors such as national pay inflation and the non-funded teachers' pension scheme, the budget reduction is more like 4.2 per cent.

Mr Thomas added: "As a council, we have been creative in coping with the difficult situation we find ourselves in. Rather than close libraries, for instance, we have made arrangements for them to be managed by the communities which they serve.

"We are also exploring similar initiatives in other areas. This includes working with partners across the region in delivering social care, developing shared services in important areas like environmental health to build resilience and cut costs and working with other councils across the region to attract investment and good quality jobs.

"However, the situation is getting increasingly difficult and there is a need for an urgent acknowledgement that in order to continue to deliver vital local services, local councils need to be funded adequately."

The GEM contacted Cllr Neil Moore, leader of the Vale Council under the previous administration, for his thoughts.

He said: "I have read the Vale Council's managing director's comments on the financial position facing the Council and local government as a whole, and in general terms, I would concur with many issues raised.

"Local government has been seriously underfunded for many years and services are under 'serious threat' as a consequence. I am surprised that the quotes come from an officer of the council and not the Leader, when the responsibility for managing and setting the budget rests squarely on the Leader's shoulders.

"Perhaps this is a way of the Conservatives in the Vale blaming others, before they raise the council tax to higher levels. It is also interesting that the managing director refers to the previous 'Labour' Council's initiative of setting up community libraries as an example of good practice of alternative service provisions, but what isn't said is that the Conservatives opposed it at the time.

"I challenge the contention that the lack of funding is the fault of the Labour Welsh Government. The reality is that local services have been protected in Wales, because Labour has not cut local government funding to the extent that Conservatives in Westminster have done. "The real fault lies with the Westminster Government, which has continually starved councils throughout the UK. A recent United Nations report said as much.

"Despite the Prime Minister and her Cabinet colleagues claiming otherwise, 'austerity' is still with us.

"The current Conservative Leader of the Vale Council previously did not agree that the council should be campaigning against austerity.

"However, reality seems to have struck home. Regrettably, local people are having to use foodbanks and the council is failing to make promised savings they agreed to make.

"Instead the Conservative [-led] council is trying to inflict punitive parking charges on residents to make up their deficit as well as setting the scene for increases in Council Tax, which is ironic when they had previously argued for a zero-per-cent rise while in opposition.

"Their financial management is an utter disgrace and this is not a good time for the citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan."

LDR/GR

Police investigate Broad Street assault

SOUTH Wales Police are investigating an assault which took place in Broad Street, Barry, in the early hours of Tuesday, February 12.

Two 24-year-old men and a 37-year-old man from Staffordshire were arrested on suspicion of assault and taken into police custody.

Anyone with any information, who has not yet spoken with officers, can call 101 quoting the reference 1900052344. Alternatively, people can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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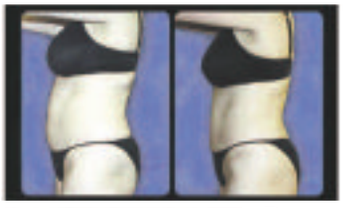

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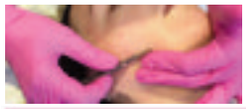

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The Buffs are on hand to help the watchers

MEMBERS of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (Buffs) Glamorgan South Province cover an area that includes Cardiff and Barry in the south, to Maesteg and Bridgend in the north, and recently they headed to Nells Point, Barry.

The Buffs had heard that the National Coastwatch Institute (NCI) in Barry were trying to purchase a new pair of binoculars for the station, which is run by volunteers.

The NCI is a national group of volunteers who scan the seas and liaise with the RNLI and the Coastguard to keep our sea shores safe for all who use them.

The NCI relies on volunteers and a total of £1,417 was collected during 2018 by the Buffs.

Phil Jones deputy watch manager at Nells Point, received the cheque and thanked the Buffs for the generous donation.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Coastguards are fundraising

BARRY Coastguard is raising £300 to help Autism Puzzle, the Coastguard Association and Mind Blue Light programme.

Following the success of last year when we raised over £900 for these causes, crew members from Llantwit and Barry CRT are entering events throughout the year to continue raising funds, as well as the usual 10k events.

Nick from Barry CRT is attempting to run a half marathon every month for 2019! Autism Puzzles Cymru is a charity that supports families who have children who have been diagnosed with autism.

The Mind BlueLight Program supports the emergency services with mental health guidance and information.

The Coastguard Association supports retired and serving coastguards and their families who are in need of help or support.

An evening with the dinosaurs gives Noah's Ark a big boost

(Left to right) Wesley Gee (Lauren's brother); Eden-Olive; Lauren Farnham; Michelle Gee; and Emma Davies and her son Sonny. Wesley and Michelle's son, Jesse, is in the front. (Photo by Phil Darmanin).

A BARRY mother has staged a highly successful fundraising night in aid of the hospital that helped her baby niece to survive a life-threatening condition.

Lauren Farnham of Barry organised the black tie event in the National Museum, Cardiff, and raised the sum of £5,500 for The Noah's Ark Children's Hospital charity.

The night involved a magician, Jack Phillips and live music from band Groove Conspiracy on arrival, a three-course meal, singing entertainment from Lauren and three friends Rhiannon Rose-Goodsir, Shane Rose-Goodsir and Michael Bennett, accompanied by Emma Arscott, and dance entertainment from fitness troop Turn'd Up Fitness.

Guests were photographed on arrival by photographer Phil Darmanin.

The night also included a prize draw with the top prize of vouchers for Fish and Chips and the Hilton Hotel donated by Fryer Tuck Fish and Chip shop in Barry, there were 25 prizes in total, included signed memorabilia, donated by Lauren's family, local businesses and Welsh celebrities. This was vital to helping the event raise such a large amount.

Lauren said: "The Noah's Ark Children's Hospital charity is so close to my heart as my niece Eden-Olive spent the first year of her life there and underwent a series of operations to correct a potentially fatal condition she was born with – oesophageal astesia.

ABOVE: Eden-Olive was the star guest.

Lauren and her son Archie handing in the money to Noah's Ark.

"A special piece of equipment called the Nathanson Liver Retractor had to be ordered for one of Eden-Olive's procedures and this was very expensive. My aim is to raise enough funds to pay back the cost of this so it can be used to help other children and families in need."

Eden-Olive was guest of honour on the night and Eden, her brother Jesse and her friend Sonny - who she met at Noah's Ark, even had a private tour of the dinosaurs after hours!

Lauren said: "My fundraising mission would not have been possible if it wasn't for the people who helped and donated their time and services and, of course, for all the people who attended or bought prize draw tickets."

She added: "The night was sponsored by the Cardiff based creative design agency Design Dough who supplied Posters for the event, the prize draw tickets and the menu and really helped to give the event the professional look."

Lauren and her three friends sang for the audience.

AM enquires on status of M4–A48 link road

ANDREW RT Davies has asked the Welsh Government if the recent change of First Minister will have any impact on its plans to build a new link road in the Vale.

The South Wales Central AM put the question to Finance Minister Rebecca Evans at the National Assembly.

He said the Government and Vale Council have proposed building a road from Sycamore Cross to the M4 in Miskin.

Mr Davies said: "We've had a change of Government - not a change of party - with a new First Minister.

"It would be interesting, certainly for residents in the area affected, to know whether there has been any change of policy in the transport plan.

"Residents would like to understand if there's any change in planning and about the support that might come from Welsh Government to pay for this project."

Ms Evans said it might be appropriate for Mr Davies to write to Transport Minister Ken Skates to get the clarity he was seeking on behalf of his constituents.

Report by Michael Prosser

Rallying call to help British farmers

THE Farming Community Network (FCN) is looking to establish a new group in Glamorgan, and is looking for new volunteers to help the charity sustain its support for farmers and farming families.

FCN, which has been providing practical and pastoral care to the farming community for 22 years, is keen to recruit anyone who is passionate about supporting the farming community to join the network.

The charity is preparing for what it is anticipating will be a significant increase in workload over the coming years, with Britain preparing to leave the European Union.

David Williams, Wales Regional Director of FCN, said: "As a charity, we have already been approached by farmers concerned about the impact of Brexit on their farm businesses and we are expecting more approaches like this in the coming years.

"Anyone who is keen to help the farming community and is passionate about protecting the future of British farming can sign up as a volunteer.

"Training will be provided to all new volunteers, you can donate as little or as much time as you like and you will be fully supported in your role. Volunteering with FCN is an extremely rewarding experience and I cannot recommend it enough."

More information about volunteering with FCN is available at *www.fcn.org.uk/volunteering*, from where you can also download a volunteer application form.

The search is on for the next generation of rural leaders and entrepreneurs

HAVE you got what it takes to be a rural leader, an innovator or entrepreneur? Are you determined and focused about working in the agriculture, forestry or food related industries and professions?

Farming Connect's recruitment campaign for the 2019 intake of Agri Academy candidates is now open. Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, officially launched Farming Connect'spersonal development programme, Agri Academy 2019, at the Farmers' Union of Wales annual farmhouse breakfast at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay on January 22.

The Agri Academy, now in its seventh year and with 200 alumni, brings together some of the most promising people making their way in the agricultural industry in Wales today, giving them the inspiration, confidence, skills and contacts they need to become future rural leaders, professional business people, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Comprising three distinct elements, the Agri Academy's Rural Leadership programme, a collaboration with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, aims to develop and nurture a new generation of leaders. The Business and Innovation programme offers personal and business development to help meet the challenges of farming in the future, while the Junior Academy, run in partnership with Wales YFC, is targeted at youngsters aged 16-19 considering a career in the food and farming industries.

The Minister, who attended a special reception at last year's Winter Fair hosted by graduates from all three elements of the programme, said: "The Agri Academy has a fantastic track record of paving the way to business and career success for so many of its alumni.

"These individuals, who are selected because of their drive, focus and commitment to rural affairs in Wales, are certainly repaying our investment in their personal development, which can be attributed to the Agri Academy's unique combination of mentoring, training, targeted high-level networking and study visits in both Wales and Europe.

"Many of them are now actively helping drive forward rural affairs in Wales, making sure their voices are heard and opinions known. With Brexit approaching it is more important than ever that we support our farming industry in every way we can. Farming Connect will be pivotal in ensuring those in the industry are given every possible tool to be successful in the challenges they face."

The application window for Agri Academy 2019 opened on January 22 and will close on March 31. Eligibility is open to business partners, immediate family members (spouses, sons and daughters) and employees (on PAYE) of Farming Connect registered businesses.

Farming Connect is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

New book looks at Newport's history

JAN Preece is the author of the recently-published *Newport Transporter Bridge and Industry Along the River*, published by Amberley Publishing at £14.99.

The book tells how the bridge was built to meet the demands of industry which had grown to include the east bank of the Usk.

The stretch of the River Usk close to the bridge has its own rich industrial heritage, from cottage industries of tin makers to shipping and the railways.

With a wealth of rare and previously unpublished images, the author, who was born and bred in Pillgwenly, Newport in the 1940s, tells how these two interconnected stories form crucial parts of Newport's history.

This 96-page paperback is a must for those interested in Newport's past.

Brian Lee

Are you ever too old to dress up for cosplay?

GAMERS from across Wales, including the Vale and Bridgend, attended the Cardiff Anime and Gaming Con in Cardiff on Saturday, a fortnight ago.

From Star Wars to Cluedo, those attending dressed as their favourite characters. The convention brought together *anime* fans, gamers, comic fans and cosplayers. **Pictures by Andy Wicks.**

Men's Forum learns about 'cyber crime'

BARRY Men's Forum welcomed a serving officer from the South Wales Constabulary recently, who specialises in cyber crime and how to keep safe while using the internet.

Barry Men's Forum meets every Thursday at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry, at 9.45am; all welcome. For further details, contact Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PDGG

Asda Barry show their support for Bobath charity

ASDA Barry has donated £200 to Bobath Barry, as part of the store's ongoing commitment to supporting the local community through their Green Coin Giving (GCG) scheme.

Asda's community colleague Lynette Griffin, based at the Barry store, handed over the cheque to representatives Angela Parsons, Jamie Evans and Melisse Jones who work at Bobath's Barry shop. The money will be used to support the charity's work with the children's therapy centre, helping them with occupational and speech therapy.

Lynette Griffin said: "We are always keen to support local charities. They are doing a fantastic job helping to improve children's lives."

If you would like to be part of Asda's GCG or know of a local charity or local good cause, get in touch with Lynette Griffin at Asda Barry, CF62 5AT or contact her on 01446 728335 ext 222 for further details.

The Small Space strikes a crafty deal

Striking a deal, from left, Bryan Gunton and Jasper Blakeley of The Small Space with (right) Robert Lilford of Tomos a Lilford Brewery.

BARRY'S 'The Small Space' theatre is to get its very own craft lager.

Co-owner Jasper Blakeley explained the deal was struck after staff from Tomos a Lilford Brewery in the Vale enjoyed a visit to popular, bijou venue.

He explained: "They were so excited after a visit to one of our resident magicians' shows that the brewery asked if they could create our very own The Small Space craft lager.

"The exact flavour, strength and design of the drink is yet to be finalised, but what we can say, after a recent tasting, is that it's going to be delicious.

"We'll be launching the lager in early April at a special event and we look forward to all our customers coming along to try it out."

TC

Follow us on Facebook - **facebook.com/GlamorganGEM** and on Twitter -**@gem_news/ @GEMSportsNews**

Making *Life* Easier

Caring for the Elderly

Transport group's drive to help others

EAST Vale Community Transport (EVCT) offers door to door transport in wheelchair-friendly minibuses to their members in the east of the Vale of Glamorgan who may have difficulty accessing regular transport services.

Membership is open to organisations, informal groups or individuals.

EVCT is currently on the lookout for volunteer drivers between 25 and 70 years old. If you enjoy driving and want to help others in your community, please apply.

A clean standard driving licence is all you need. Training is provided, all our drivers are volunteers and expenses are covered.

Typical trips might include shopping, lunches, meetings and events, social clubs or church services.

Telephone 02920 705 138 or email enquiries@evct.org.uk

EAST VALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS and PASSENGER ASSISTANTS

needed for East Vale Community Transport

Based in Penarth, EVCT has provided wheelchair-friendly minibus transport for groups and individuals in the east of the Vale of Glamorgan since 1986.

Drivers need to be between 25 and 70. Nationally-recognised training given.

Time commitment is at your convenience.

Please contact **enquiries@ecvt.org.uk** or **02920 705138.**

Offering loving care in splendid surroundings

COLLEGE Fields Nursing Home in Barry is an impressive building with an elegant Edwardian facade, that has much in common with fine country houses.

The building, listed by the Secretary of State for Wales as one of special historical and architectural interest, enjoys magnificent views over the Bristol Channel and Somerset coast.

Residents at College Fields Nursing Home enjoy their home comforts in a warm, spacious, delightful environment, with lots of companionship.

College Fields Nursing Home
Where Caring Comes First . . .
Providing comfort, security and companionship
- 24 Hour qualified nursing care
- Wide range of specialist care available
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. . . a home from home
College Fields Close, Barry.CF62 8LE
Telephone: (01446) 747778

Malmo Hearing picks up top award

OUR latest award 'Audiology Practice of the Year 2019' was awarded by the Association of Optometrists.

We are an independent family-run business offering the best solution for your hearing needs. We understand that hearing loss is a very personal and sensitive issue and we treat every patient with the utmost compassion. We will be with you every step of your journey to hear and live better, from the initial consultation through ongoing treatment and long term health and protection of your hearing.

Our expertise can offer the best way to protect and maintain your natural hearing.

We can offer the very latest in digital hearing aid technology and are very excited to announce the new Livio AI, the first-ever hearing aid to feature integrated sensors and artificial intelligence, including fall detection.

Livio AI is the world's first multi-purpose hearing aid that provides both superior sound quality and the ability to track body and brain health. Featuring integrated sensors and artificial intelligence, Livio AI redefines what a hearing aid can do.

Livio AI is so much more than just a hearing aid, it is a gateway to better health and wellness and will be available from Malmo Hearing at end of March.

Our main practice, conveniently located in Bridgend town centre at 6 Derwen Road, is open six days a week from Monday to Thursday (9am–5pm); Friday (9am–3pm) and Saturday (9am–1pm). We have a second practice in Newport at 203 Caerleon Road, which is open Monday to Thursday (9am–5pm); Friday (9am–3pm) and have partnerships with pharmacies, GP surgeries and opticians throughout south Wales, enabling us to offer a customer-focused and community based local service.

We run regular clinics with our partners at Treorchy, Talbot Green, Dinas Powys, Barry, Caerphilly and Blackwood. Home visits are also available by request, including all CF, NP and SA postcodes.

Our services include free hearing assessments, free demonstrations of the latest in digital hearing aid technology, rechargeable hearing aids, microsuction ear wax removal, tinnitus therapy, hearing protection and hearing aid repairs and servicing.

Contact us on 01656 652444 or for more information, visit www.malmohearing.co.uk.

Hear the difference for yourself at our Special 2 Day Hearing Events

During this event, we will offering:
- **TRADE-IN** your current hearing aids and get **25% OFF** new technology!
- **FREE** hearing screening and consultation
- **FREE** technology demonstration
- **FREE** clean and check of your current hearing aids

9:30AM – to – 4.30PM

Please call early to make an appointment as space is limited
Bridgend: 01656 652444

Malmo Hearing
Local Hearing Care for Local People

Malmo Hearing Limited
6 Derwen Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 1LH
T: 01656 652444
E: info@bridgend-hearing.co.uk

Malmo Hearing Limited
203 Caerleon Road, Newport, NP19 7HA
T: 01633 263784
E: info@newport-hearing.co.uk

SPECIAL HEARING EVENT
Two days only at Bridgend
6 Derwen Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 1LH
Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th February 2019

SPECIAL OFFERS ON THE DAY

*Hearing Aid Expert **Paul Lamb**, will be in our clinic to **offer free advice** & **demonstrate** this fantastic technology. **Try for yourself and experience the difference!***

Muse iQ **up to 20% OFF!**

Introducing **MUSE IQ** hearing aids. Designed to make enjoying music, TV and talking on the phone easier than ever.
- Provides natural hearing
- Delivers pristine audio clarity
- Preserves peace and quiet
- Better understand conversations
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Introducing ***Muse iQ*** *Rechargeable, the hearing aid technology you've been waiting for.*

***Muse iQ Rechargeable** is designed to:*
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- **All-in-one charger** lets you grab your hearing aids and go
- **The Smallest rechargeable** hearing solution available today

Try for yourself and experience the difference!

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Caring for the Elderly

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WITH a fast call-out response and excellent customer service, give South Wales Stair Lifts a call for all your stair lift needs.

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Stair lifts are installed from £1,250 and can be installed in days. Rental stair lifts can be installed for as long as you need it, with no tie-in.

We offer a free consultation at your home at a time that suits you.

We are the local Stannah Stair Lift supplier, along with other makes which are available. Our friendly engineers are very experienced in what they do and have the compassion to provide a service in the most delicate of situations.

Please visit our Facebook page, Facebook.com/southwalesstairlifts to read some handwritten letter reviews from our satisfied customers.

Contact us for a free consultation or just for advice on 01446 737799.

Feet problems? Vale Podiatry is here to help

ARE you having problems with your feet? It can be something as simple as finding it difficult to reach to cut your toenails, or pain and discomfort caused by foot deformities, skin problems, or thickened and misshapen nails.

Whatever your problem, the podiatrists at Vale Podiatry are able to help.

Angela, Sarah and Erin are HCPC-registered Podiatrists who are able to treat and advise on all foot problems.

We stock a range of foot creams, pads, insoles that are tried and tested by ourselves, you are welcome to call in and speak to our friendly receptionists who can advise you on any of our products.

Our clinics in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major both have wheelchair access and we offer a home service to those who are housebound.

Footcare for All - Friendly, Professional Podiatrists

ValePodiatry Footcare for all

Angela Battrick Dip.Pod.M,M.Ch.S.
Sarah Battrick BSc (Hons) Pod.M M.Ch.S

Our treatments include:
• Nail Cutting
• Corn and Callus Removal
• Verruca Treatment
• Nail Surgery
• Diabetic Footcare
• Bio-mechanical Assessment
• Orthotics

HOME VISITS

Call: 01446 790199
1A Barons Close House, East Street, Llantwit Major. CF61 1XY
Call: 01446 771058
23 High Street, Cowbridge. CF71 7AE
www.valepodiatry.co.uk

Age-related arthritis: Irreversible end of pain-free living?

ARTHRITIS is a common condition which causes pain, swelling, inflammation and often stiffness in the joints of the body.

Sadly, many sufferers are told: "There is nothing that can be done outside surgery."

However, the gentle manipulative and massage approach taken by osteopaths can help many arthritis sufferers.

Treatment is individual, gently moving and stretching an arthritic joint and massaging surrounding muscles and tissues can help ease some of the discomfort.

This can often be enough to reduce pain and restore function for day-to-day activities.

For example, someone with an arthritic shoulder who couldn't raise the arm may, after a few weeks' treatment, be able to lift a kettle or raise the arm high enough so that hair can be comfortably brushed.

"Osteopathy is not limited to treating patients with arthritis.

"If you are uncertain, give me a ring, tell me your complaint, and we'll chat over the options," said Robert David, M.Ost

Consult with Rob, your 'Master of Osteopathy' in Barry (discount for over 60s) on 02921 286 706; see www.highlightosteopaths.co.uk.

Find us at 31 Lakin Drive, Highlight Park, Barry, CF62 8AH.

Low-cost nail-cutting service is now available

AGE Connects Cardiff & Vale provide a low-cost nail-cutting service to provide basic foot care services to older people in the local community.

We work from clinics throughout Cardiff and the Vale, with our St Athan clinic now running fortnightly, and a new clinic in Penarth, at Trinity Church.

The service is provided by our nail-cutting assistants who are trained by the Cardiff & Vale University health board.

There are no age restrictions and the service is available to anyone who is unable to cut their own toe nails (certain health restrictions apply) at a cost of only £13 per session.

For further information call 02922 331113.

Passmores asks 'Have you made your will yet?

EVERY adult in the UK should consider making a will, and here are some of the reasons why:

* Without a will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.

* Without a will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.

* If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.

* If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.

* Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no will, because they may depend upon you financially.

* Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries in your will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate.

Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your will.

Ensure that you have a will in place and that it is up to date, to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

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mail@passmores.com

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Making *Life* Easier

Caring for the Elderly

Looking to advertise in over 45,000 newspapers AND online - email **sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk** or call **01446 774484**

Do you need help to look after your feet? The Foot Clinic can help...

AS we age we naturally develop more problems with our feet.

Age related health changes such as arthritis may bring joint changes, skin may become dry and fragile, nails may become in-grown or thicken making them difficult and painful. Foot problems can be debilitating and impact on the quality of our life. Seemingly small problem areas of concern can lead to pain and loss of mobility.

It is therefore vital to improve and maintain our foot health. Diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, more prevalent with the passing years, requires special attention. Simple interventions such as podiatry/chiropody can have a surprising impact on function. An assessment can identify problem areas.

We are friendly and approachable at the Foot Clinic and no concern is too small. Ring us on 01446 793040 for advice, or to make an appointment with an experienced and fully qualified podiatrist.

Podiatry
MChS HCPC
Professional Members
of the College of Podiatry

- Nail cutting, treatment for problem nails, ingrown nails, thickened nail reduction
- Lesions, corns and callus
- Treatment for painful feet conditions
- Diabetic foot assessment and care
- Foot assessment and care for the ageing or elderly
- Dermatological conditions/ fungal infections
- Verruca treatment
- Nail surgery

Unit 4, Commercial House,
1 Commercial Street,
Llantwit Major CF61 1RB
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info@thefoot-clinic.com

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Snowdrop Independent Living

FREE assessments undertaken for active wheelchairs, E.motion wheels, Twions and E.fix systems.

Please call Lynne Jakeway on 02920 707111 or email lynne@snowdropindependentliving.co.uk.

Snowdrop Independent Living, Crown House, Windsor Road, Penarth, CF64 1JG.

The benefits of owning a cat...

HOW many people realise there are beneficial effects to owning a cat, or even just being in its company?

It has been proved that just smoothing a cat can have a calming effect on the body, lowering your blood pressure.

If you have aged parents or relatives who live on their own, they will feel less lonely in the company of a cat. They will have something to talk to, and it will give them something to focus on.

Children brought up with cats suffer from fewer allergies. It is so sad that when someone becomes pregnant, they are sometimes advised to get rid of their cat. You can pick up more diseases by eating seafood and meat that has not been thoroughly cooked etc. Hygiene is the key word!

Children who grow up with cats will have more respect for animals and people as they get older; it gives them responsibility and companionship.

We have lots of cats in Maesteg Animal Welfare Society looking for permanent homes; some have already been discarded for mundane reasons. They are not disposable items, they are looking for care and affection.

You can help us by giving a cat a loving home, or perhaps a donation through PayPal: maesteganimalwelfaresociety@yahoo.com.

For more information, call Jan 01656 721496, or Nicola on 01656 769855.

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

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All needing a new family!
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Caring for the Elderly

Free up your time and use The Laundry Rooms

THE Laundry Rooms Barry are under new management but retain their fully qualified and professionally trained staff.

Our mission statement is to provide a professional and quality service at all times: we will pick up your laundry; wash, iron (as required) and deliver your laundry back to your door at no extra cost, freeing up your valuable time and allowing you to get on with more enjoyable things!

We offer a full service, from the smallest of items to large bedding bundles and including all sizes of quilts.

Whether pre-booked or ad hoc, all laundered to a high standard. We cover Barry, Penarth, Roose and other surrounding areas.

Our prices are very competitive with no hidden nasty shocks and we accept debit or credit card payments - please call!

Looking to advertise
In over 45,000 newspapers
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Personal Care Assistant Available

Experienced Health Care Professional with NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care, offering the following services around the Vale of Glamorgan:

Assistance with daily living tasks to help maintain a high quality of life e.g. Personal care, shopping and light housework duties.

Support, encouragement and companionship.

Current DBS check, Liability Insurance, own transport.

Competitive hourly rate.

Please contact Eleni on 07515 878817.

Job Opportunity !!!

GJ Care & Training Ltd is recruiting new and enthusiastic care staff in the Barry and the Vale

Full & part time positions available.

No experience required as full training supplied

Must be a car driver

Salary to be discussed at interview

5.6 weeks annual leave

Opportunity to enrol into a pension scheme

24/7 support network with supervisors

Free uniform

Become fully qualified in Health and Social Care

Call 07956601171 for an interview.

Care In The Vale - it's all about the people!

AT Care in the Vale we believe care agencies should not only understand the reasons why people need care (illness or old age, perhaps), but also the life experiences that make each person unique, interesting and valuable.

We should not hide behind uniforms or concepts such as 'professional distance' but be real people with a close interest in others.

We should be driven not so much by 'professionalism' but by our sense of 'shared humanity': ie what one human being does for another.

Our goal should be to leave people happier at the end of our visits than when we arrived. Happier because they have been well looked after by people who care for them and are interested in them.

It's all about people!

Care in the Vale

Domiciliary Care

Seeking Care Assistants

At Care in the Vale we pride ourselves on the care that we extend to elderly people, younger adults with learning or physical disabilities and people with dementia.
We are a domiciliary care agency working in the Vale of Glamorgan - mostly Penarth, Sully, Dinas Powys and Barry.
The duties of the Care Assistant include all elements of personal care, from washing and bathing to companionship. We operate on a strong work ethic and share the values of humanity, optimism, decency, compassion, loyalty and creativity.

What we offer:

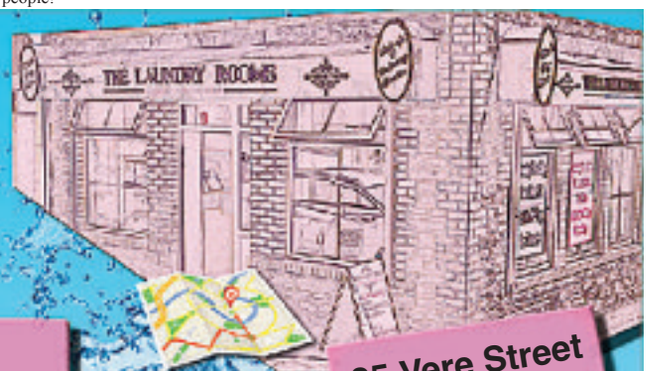
- **Competitive rates of pay. Basic hourly rate of £8.20 ph (09h00 – 18h00)**
- **Enhanced rates of £9.20- £10.20 ph for unsociable hours**
- **In addition to this we pay 34p per mile, mileage**
- **Up to 28 days' paid annual leave**
- **We offer 20, 30 and 40 hour contracts.**
- **Opportunity to enrol into a pension scheme**
- **Perkbox: Variety of discounts and benefits offered**
- **Work phone will be provided**
- **24/7 support network**
- **Flexible to work a mixture of early mornings, evenings and weekends**
- **Employer DBS checks paid**
- **Full training provided**

Driving license, own transport and business insurance is essential

If you would like to work for Care in the Vale and are passionate about care, please send us your updated CV or pop into our office – we would love to hear from you!
info@care-in-the-vale.com or 01446 741905
If you are invited for an interview a short literacy and numeracy test will be conducted.

THE LAUNDRY ROOMS

"WHERE THE BEST CLOTHES HANG OUT"



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WE are an independent, family-run pharmacy, which has served the patients of Barry since 1888.

Our main aim is to look after the health and wellbeing of all our patients. Our friendly, dedicated healthcare team offer all our patients that personal touch, which enables us to really get to know you and offer exactly what you need.

We can offer a complete repeat prescription package, from storing your repeat prescriptions securely, ordering them from the surgery, collecting from the surgery 48 hours later and we can also deliver directly to your door, and weekly blister/tablet packs made up by High Street Pharmacy to aid in remembering to take medication at the prescribed times each day.

Call High Street Pharmacy on 01446 733789, 88 High Street, Barry.

Action Hearing Loss is here to help...

AGED Veterans: We offer information and support to veterans with hearing loss and tinnitus, and their families and carers.

Live Well with Hearing Loss: We provide advice, support and information and help identify solutions to issues caused by deafness and hearing loss.

For example, we can help you source equipment, devices and digital technology based solutions to help you feel more independent and in control of your own life. We ensure that the solutions are suitable for you, your hearing loss and any hearing aids you may be using. We can also connect you to other useful services and groups where appropriate.

JobSense: If you have sensory loss and are currently out of work, JobSense could help you access employment, education or training. This is a project delivered in partnership between Action on Hearing Loss Cymru, Centre of Sign, Sight and Sound (COS) and Elite Supported Employment Agency and funded by the European Social Fund.

Contact 02920 333034/07777 890267 (text or ngt) or Wales@hearingloss.org.uk for further information.

ACTION ON HEARING LOSS CYMRU

EMPOWERING PEOPLE
TO LIVE WELL
WITH HEARING LOSS

Over 575,000 people in Wales are Deaf, have a hearing loss or live with tinnitus.
That's 1 in 6 of us!

Action on Hearing Loss Cymru will be in Morrisons in Barry on the 22nd February showcasing their services. Meet the team and find out how we can support you.

Hearing checks - Check your hearing for free.
Advice - Learn about support services available to you.
Volunteer - Find out how volunteering can help find work.
Information - What you can do to look after your hearing.
Technology - Try the latest assistive technology.

Email: volunteering.cymru@hearingloss.org.uk
Phone: 02920 333034 NGT/text: 07777 890267

Talk to us about volunteering or your Hearing at Morrisons, Heol Ceiniog, Barry
10am - 4pm Friday 22nd February

Valeways Strollers are walking for wellbeing

DON'T stop! That's the best advice for retirees – and walking charity Valeways finds that Vale citizens have made it their motto.

Co-ordinator Rebecca Exley, who leads many of the walks around Cowbridge, said: "Coffee Shop Strollers, who meet on Wednesdays, are the fastest growing sector of all our activities. Walking is friendly, good for health and heart and great for blowing away the cobwebs.

"The Strollers' groups meet for regular short (one hour) walks, a chat and coffee in Cowbridge, Llantwit, Barry and Cosmeston. Walk leaders are on hand to guide the way, talk about interesting features en route, and solve any problems."

Popularity is growing so fast that there are plans to add a Penarth walk, in April.

Rebecca said: "If the gym isn't for you, this is a great way to find your feet and lead a more active life. Our most senior stroller is 95!"

The next Valeways Coffee Shop Strollers Walks take place at:

Barry, Bridge Café Car Park at 10.30am on February 20 and March 6 and 20; Cosmeston at 10.30am on February 27 and March 13 and 27; Cowbridge Physic Garden at 2.30pm on February 20 and March 6 and 20; Llantwit Major Town Hall at 2.30pm on February 27 and March 13 and 27.

Walk and Chat with Mind, Traveller's Café, Barry Station at 10am on 1 March; Living with Cancer Strollers, Cosmeston at 10.30am on March 7.

For further information, call 01446 749000 or www.info@valeways.org.uk.

Valeways Coffee Shop Strollers Walks take place at:

Barry, Bridge Café Car Park, 10:30am: 20th Feb, 6th & 20th March
Cosmeston, 10:30am: 27th Feb, 13th & 27th March
Cowbridge Physic Garden, 2:30pm: 20th Feb, 6th & 20th March
Llantwit Major Town Hall, 2:30pm: 27th Feb, 13th & 27th March
Walk and Chat with Mind, Traveller's Café, Barry Station, 10:00am: 1st March
Living with Cancer Strollers, Cosmeston, 10:30am: 7th March

18 February - 3 March 2019

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Making *Life* Easier

Caring for the Elderly

Can you give your time?

AGE Connects Cardiff & the Vale supports older people in Cardiff who have few or no visitors or are unable to access community activities.

We are currently looking for befriending and shopping volunteers in most areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. Volunteers are trained and supported in their roles and expenses are reimbursed.

Become a Volunteer and brighten someone's day

We **NEED** Volunteers to end loneliness and isolation.

Can you help reduce this loneliness and isolation by giving 2 hours a week?

If you feel you can make a difference then we would love to hear from you.

Contact Sharon for more information on : 07507 416 875 or sharon.evans@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk

age connects cardiff & the vale.

We can't do it alone.

Buddy is looking for a human of his own

BUDDY is a bright three-year-old crossbreed who has so much love to give who adores human company and enjoys plenty of cuddles.

Buddy would prefer to be walked in quiet areas where he can relax and explore to his heart's content. He can live with children eight years and over, but would need to be the only pet in the home.

Canine Carer Hannah said: "Buddy is looking for a best friend to enjoy long walks with. He is a true gent and his charming personality is sure to make you fall in love with him."

To find out more Buddy, contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725219, visit the rehoming centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG or see www.dogstrust.org.uk.

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Dispensary **01446 772255**

www.sylviawilliamschemist.co.uk

April Care Solutions can offer you friendly help

HAVE your personal circumstances recently changed and you find you are no longer able to keep on top of the housework?

Maybe finding personal care is not as easy now as it used to be? If so, then we can help!

April Complete Care Solutions have been authorised providers of care and home help for local authorities for over 20 years. We have a cherished team of very friendly and experienced staff, who would be only too pleased to help you.

If you would like more information, either email us at info@aprilcare.co.uk or call 01656 863963, for an informal chat with our friendly manager, Amelia Jones.

Do you struggle to reach your feet?

RS PODIATRY is a well-established Podiatry and Chiropody practice, based at Highlight Park Medical Practice in Barry.

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What's on and where in your area

PACT Meetings

Blackmill PACT at Blackmill Community Centre on Monday, March 25 at 6.30pm.

Sarn and Bryncoch PACT at Sarn Life Centre on Tuesday, March 5 at 7pm.

Ynysawdre PACT at Ynysawdre Community Hall on Tuesday, March 19 at 6.15pm.

Meet Your Local Officers

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Llandough PACT at The Royal British Legion, Penlan Road Llandough on Monday, February 18 at 7pm.

A Coffee & Chat will be held at the Victoria Inn Sigingstone on Tuesday, February 19 at 11am.

Fair Bake coffee

THIS year, Fairtrade Fortnight will be held between February 25 and March 10 and to celebrate, Barry Town Council's Fairtrade advisory committee in partnership with Cadoxton Methodist Church will host a Fair Bake coffee morning.

Members of the public are invited to enjoy the Fairtrade coffee, tea and cake that will be on offer on Saturday, March 9 between 10am and 12pm at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry (CF63 1JX). There is no charge for the event, although donations are welcome. For more information contact info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or 01446 738663.

St David's Day concert

COR Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch will this year make their annual concert the St David's day celebration at Maesteg Town hall on Saturday, March 2 commencing at 7pm.

The guest for this year's concert will be the celebrated tenor Wynne Evans, who will be making his second appearance at the Town Hall and who so thrilled the audience previously: this makes for an excellent concert.

Wynne has sung in many different countries and has walked out onto the turf of the Millennium Stadium, after the All Blacks performed the Haka, carrying the Welsh flag and singing 'Cwm Rhondda'. Huw Morgan has produced an excellent programme for the choir and the finale will be something really special – which will be a first for the choir but will I'm sure bring the house down.

Come along and enjoy a first class night of entertainment; tickets are now on sale at the Town Hall box office or any choir member.

Market day in Llantwit

THE next market day in Llantwit Major takes place on Saturday, March 3.

Those interested in running stalls should contact Llantwit Major events group on Facebook.

T-Rex tribute band

TRIBUTE band T.Rextasy coming to Memo Centre, Barry, on Saturday, March 9.

Accepted as the world's only official live tribute band dedicated to Marc Bolan & T.Rex, and the only band endorsed and approved by Marc Bolan's family, estate, original ex-members of T.Rex, and Bolan's catalogue management, T.Rextasy have been described by many as 'beyond the boundaries of tribute'. They have been performing all over the world for more than 25 years, a career that ironically out-lives Marc's very own T.Rex.

PODS

PENARTH Operatic and Dramatic Society will perform their next play Witness for the Prosecution by Agatha Christie in the Paget Rooms, from March 20 - 22.

The stakes are high: will likeable Leonard Vole be found guilty of the heartless murder of Emily French? To find out book your tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/pods.

Llantwit Major Victorian Fair

LLANTWIT Major Victorian Fair will take place on Saturday, June 22 this year.

The Victorian Fair is held every two years and includes lots of entertainment, attractions and activities that are spread throughout the town. To book a stall for the day, contact Liz Evans at the following email: lizabeth13@hotmail.co.uk.

'Welsh businesses deserve better' says Vale MP

VALE MP Alun Cairns has expressed his disappointment in the Welsh Government's business rates announcement, which will still have many businesses in Wales paying thousands of pounds more in business rates than their counterparts in England.

Figures show that a business with a rateable value of £12,000 will pay a minimum of £3,260 more in Wales than in England, which Mr Cairns argues makes Wales a less attractive place to do business and less competitive.

Under the UK Government's business rates relief scheme, businesses with a rateable value of up to £50,000 will receive a 1/3 cut in their rates. The Welsh Government has been given the funding by Westminster to implement the same rate relief in Wales.

The Welsh Government have since announced that under their High Street Rate Relief Scheme, businesses will be able to receive up to £2,500 relief on business rates and those with a rateable value of up to £9,100 are eligible to avoid paying any rates at all. In England, businesses with a rateable value of up to £12,500 are exempt from paying rates and the multiplier used to calculate the final bill is also smaller in England.

There is now widespread disappointment that the announcement by the new First Minister Mark Drakeford falls short of the commitment given to businesses in England. Mr Cairns has criticised the Welsh Government for continuing to impose the most expensive business rates anywhere in Britain, putting Welsh businesses at a strong disadvantage compared to their English counterparts.

The Welsh Conservative policy is that all businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000 should receive 100 per cent rate relief.

The Vale MP said: "This announcement leaves many businesses in Wales at a disadvantage in comparison to businesses in England. We can see that there is an additional cost to traders in Wales of thousands of pounds, which makes a huge difference to the Vale's small businesses.

"It comes as no surprise that people locally are angry that the Welsh Labour Government are once again introducing policies which result in Wales being less competitive and a less attractive place to do business.

"The risk of a more hostile environment for business damages our local economy and stunts job growth. Meanwhile, the UK Conservative Government has worked to help business in Wales through measures like scrapping the Severn tolls. It's disappointing that while we are working to improve the economy in Wales, the Welsh Government is failing."

NFU Cymru backs call for farmers to Mind Your Head!

NFU Cymru is supporting this year's Mind Your Head campaign, organised by leading farming charity Farm Safety Foundation, to raise awareness and tackle the stigma of the growing issue of mental illness in farming.

Recent research by the charity reveals that 81 per cent of farmers under 40 believe that mental health is the biggest hidden problem facing farmers today and 92 per cent believe that promoting good mental health is crucial if lives are to be saved and farmers kept safe.

Throughout the week, the Farm Safety Foundation will be reminding farmers and farming families that Valentine's week, when we are supposed to celebrate love and togetherness, can sometimes highlight how different, alone, or low we feel and if that is the case, help is available. The Foundation will bring together key people, organisations and other charities to raise awareness of this mounting issue in the industry and build a community of support for those affected.

NFU Cymru president John Davies said: "We are backing Mind Your Head! as it's important to raise awareness of the issue in the industry. Farming can be a highly stressful occupation and the industry is exposed to a unique set of circumstances and stressors. Farming has the poorest safety record of any occupation in the UK and stress is often a key factor in many of the accidents, injuries and illnesses taking place on farms."

For more information on 'Mind Your Head' visit www.yellowwellies.org or follow @yellowwelliesUKon Twitter/Facebook.

Property of the week
Last chance to buy a new home in Aberthin

PERFECTLY placed amid beautiful surroundings, around a mile from Cowbridge, time is running out for buyers hoping to call Llanfair Meadow, Aberthin "home".

With good schools and an array of amenities nearby, location has driven buyers to the Edenstone Homes development, where the final two homes, both with four bedrooms, are on sale.

Prices are from £524,000 for a Zero Carbon Tewkesbury. There's also a double fronted Faringdon style property, priced at £529,000.

It features lounge and study either side of the main entrance, with the quiet calm of the lounge complemented by the open plan kitchen, dining and family room, which is very much a focal point that will be a hive of activity.

Upstairs, the master bedroom features a dressing room and en-suite, leaving the spacious family bathroom, with separate shower, to serve the remaining three bedrooms.

Call 07392 090258 or see edenstonehomes.com/aberthin-cowbridge for details.

Womens' Icelandic trek for charity

TWO women from Barry will trek in Iceland to raise funds for medical research.

Michelle Hunt (38) and Sarah Cayton (35) will be joined by 20 other people on the Iceland 2019 Fire and Ice Expedition this September. Their aim is to raise £5,000 for Cancer Research Wales.

Michelle and Sarah are also organising local fundraisers to help towards their total.

Michelle explained: "I have a lot of family in west Wales who have done fundraising in the past.

"My stepfather passed away at the age of 30. My mother overcame breast cancer and still has regular check-ups. My granddad passed away due to prostate cancer at the age of 59. My other granddad has been battling myeloma for five years and has been poorly.

"He is such a fighter. I want to make him proud and take on this challenge, and also for everyone else I've mentioned."

Sarah, whose father also recently overcame cancer, was keen to sign up too. Michelle said: "We would like to hit the target by June."

Sarah owns Cardio Core Fitness in Barry and Michelle, who works at Savills, is a part-time instructor there. It means the two women will be well prepared for the physical challenge.

The trail takes four days to complete, covering distances of between 16km and 24km each day.

Michelle explained: "We could be going from summer clothes to winter clothes in a matter of moments due to the very changeable Icelandic weather."

The two women are hosting an 'Old Skool Reunion' fundraiser at Bar Cocoa in Barry on Friday, April 5 to raise funds. It is for anyone who went to comprehensive school in Barry between 1985 and 1995.

Michelle and Sarah want to thank Scott Walters of Bar Cocoa for letting them have the venue for the reunion.

For more information, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michelle-hunt19.

TC

Susan's sweet success with Chwarae Teg

A BRIDGEND woman who changed her career is now urging other eligible women to sign up for a service that transformed her work life balance.

Susan Lee-Clements joined the Agile Nation 2 Career Development Programme run by Chwarae Teg, the Wales-based gender equality charity, back in 2018.

At the time Susan, 51, led a team at Thorntons and had worked in the retail sector for 34 years. Originally she joined the programme to boost her team building skills, but soon found that her store was facing closure.

She was able to continue with the programme, and gained the skills and confidence she needed to carve out a new career within Citizens Advice.

Susan said: "Thanks to Chwarae Teg and the encouragement and support I got from my fellow participants, I have had the confidence to grow and learn totally new skills. These include effective communication, conflict handling and personal development planning, all of which I put into practice when I started volunteering for Citizens Advice, learning how to support clients with benefit and debt queries.

"I have since successfully gained a part-time role with Citizens Advice as a project support worker on their new Financial Advice and Support Service."

People who are interested in taking part should call 0300 365 0445, email an2@chwaraeteg.com or visit www.agilenation2.org.uk.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

11x3

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2019/00051/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Widening of existing pedestrian access to form vehicle access
Location:/Lleoliad:	Ty Mawr, Llanbethery
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanbethery

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2019/00063/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Porch roof structure improvements, widening and raising of Porch roof gutters (behind Porch parapets) and replacement of Porch roof coverings. Porch rainwater goods to be replaced & (provisionally) soil vent pipe to be partly replaced & reduced in height. Render and leadwork to Porch to be renewed and / or repaired like-for-like
Location:/Lleoliad:	Ewenny Priory, Abbey Road, Ewenny
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II*
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2019/00086/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition of modern conservatory
Location:/Lleoliad:	Pwllywrach, Colwinston
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/
Dated / Dyddiedig: 14 February, 2019
V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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LLANTWIT MAJOR — NEW

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18 Four Acre, CF61 2XN
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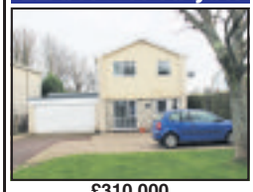
LLANTWIT MAJOR

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ST ATHAN — NEW

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- EPC Rating - E

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OnTheMarket.com rightmove ARLA NAEA RICS

Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior round up

BRIDGEND Athletic under-7s were joined by Llanharan & Valley Ravens and with Brigend having a squad of 18 players they were able to field three teams.

Great evasive rugby in attack and a resilient defence shown by all Bridgend players resulted in three matches and three wins for the Green & Golds.

Star players were Tyler Pascoe, Sam Francis and Benjamin Westlake. Next up for the Ath under-7s is Pontypridd at Newbridge Fields.

After a run of back-to-back away matches and some cancellations due to adverse weather, it was back to familiar surroundings on Sunday as the under-8s welcomed Llanharan to Newbridge Fields.

Despite a few regulars being unavailable, the Ath' still had a good turnout and were able to put together two strong sides, the Greens and Yellows, to take on their visitors.

Llanharan fielded two teams, each boasting quite different skill sets. One showed good understanding between players whose major strength was offloading the ball before the tag, while the other was built around a few strong, elusive running individuals.

The Ath' Greens adapted well to the different styles of play of the visitors and were dominant throughout. The Ath' Yellows, on the other hand, found it a little tougher to get the upper hand over their opponents. The players had a good opportunity to stretch their legs this week, playing eight matches in total.

The Greens won all their matches, clocking up 95 tags and 30 tries. The Yellows had more of a mixed bag of results but still came away with a respectable one win, two draws and one loss, accumulating 81 tags and 23 tries.

All the boys put in a great shift on Sunday, none more so than 'Interception Machine' Ioan Jones who, having scored one in all recent matches, stepped it up this week by scoring an unprecedented hat-trick of interception tries.

The under-9s played Llanharan for the first time since the introduction of contact.

The Ath got off to a good start winning the first quarter 15-0. The Athletic then made 11 changes for the second quarter and this disrupted the team's momentum, allowing Llanharan back into the game with the score 20-10 going into the last quarter.

It was Llanharan who started strong scoring two tries in quick succession, the Athletic ran the changes halfway through the third and final quarter bringing on the 10 who started the game. The Ath weren't going to let this one slip away and finished with four unanswered tries to run out 40-20 victors.

Scorers were Ethan Davies three, Dylan Jones two, Rory Whyte two and Max Edwards. Standout performers in defence were Rhys Gardiner, Ethan Davies, Regan Henly, Osian Kenny, Dylan Jones, Mason Brown, Grayson Whelan and William Waite.

The under-10s hosted Llanharan at Newbridge Fields this Sunday in what proved to be a very even and closely contested game.

Last season's fixtures were one sided against the black and blues, losing both by some margin.

In muddy conditions the Ath started brightly with hard yards from Charley. Albert quickly secured the ruck to ensure Monty had quick clean ball. Outside half Olli could see the overlap and quick hands through the backs allowed Jackson to sprint 20 metres for the first try. Llanharan quickly responded with two tries, both from inside their own half. Good counter-rucking produced turnover ball, and slick passing cut through the Ath defence making it Ath 1 Llanharan 2 at the break.

The Green and Golds started the second period buoyant, Jackson turning ball over at a ruck by his own try line and dancing through defenders until tackled on the half way line. Quick rucking again saw the ball passed through the backs with Olli crossing the whitewash to level the score.

Llanharan were now under the cosh and a poor defensive clearance was gathered by Theo on the halfway line. The speedster saw the gaps in defence, outpacing three defenders to put the Ath in the lead. Llanharan responded just before the whistle to leave the score Ath 3 Llanharan 3 at the interval.

The third period saw another solo effort from Jackson, but Llanharan scored two tries as a result of unforced errors on the Ath try line to run out 5-4 victors.

On reflection, the Ath boys really have developed and upskilled in the last 12 months. Minus a few errors close to our own try line and forwards being more resilient when rucking, the result could have been different.

The under-11s were glad to have a home fixture after a few weeks on the road.

Sunday's opponents were Llanharan with this being the first time this season the two teams have met. In difficult muddy conditions the Ath boys got off to a great start racing to an early 14 - 0 lead. Halfway through the first half it was clear that the forwards had already got the upper hand and were dominating the contact area. The tries continued to come with the boys throwing the ball around regardless of the muddy condition. Half time score 26-0.

The second half was more of the same with Evan Rees bossing things from scrum half and keeping the team on the front foot. The tries continued to come as the boys pulled away with two more well-worked tries. Llanharan had some possession and tried hard to play positive rugby and were rewarded with a try in which the conversion was missed. The remainder of the game was dominated by the Ath boys who controlled all aspects of the game to run out 63-5 winners.

Well done to Ioan Shephard for kicking nine out of nine conversions. Also well done to Charlie Clarke who made his debut for the Ath today. Overall an excellent team performance, well done to all.

The under-13s travelled away to Tonmawr to play in wet conditions against a well drilled side.

The Ath started the game well, carrying hard, winning turnovers up front and trying to play rugby across the pitch. The first 10 minutes went back and forth between the sides before Tonmawr broke through to score the first try. That score gave Tonmawr some real momentum and before half time they ran in another two tries with one being converted, so the half time score was 17-0 to the home side.

The second half went the same way as the first for 10 minutes, with both sides playing some good rugby and the game a real back and forth affair. However, Tonmawr got back on top with another couple of scores with one converted. To the real credit of the whole squad the Ath boys never let their heads drop and kept playing to the last minute. They were rewarded with a try off the last play of the game, running a set move off a scrum for Rhys Hockings to crash over in the corner.

Final score 29-5 to Tonmawr, but real praise must go to the whole Ath squad for their never-say-die attitude, and the score line was not a reflection of the effort and commitment shown.

The under-15s welcomed Pontypool to Newbridge Fields for their first home game since October.

With poor playing conditions the Ath started strongly against a big physical Pontypool side having good possession, but spilling the ball in contact resulting in Pontypool kicking back down the field on numerous occasions. This pressure and poor defending resulted in Pontypool scoring first against the run of play.

With the Ath forwards carrying well and making hard yards up the field against the wind they released the ball for Evan Beach to chip through to gather the ball to get over the whitewash and convert to put the Ath 7-5 in front.

With conditions poor for both teams there were a lot of handling errors and spilt balls, but it was Pontypool who had the upper hand and pulled in front again with a couple of soft tries through their big pack.

The second half was much the same but the Ath showed glimpses of what they could do. However, handling errors and the line-out not functioning well let them down, along with some poor defending, which was very uncharacteristic of them.

The team fought back with tries from Charlie Ashpole and quick thinking by Ethan Scourfiled, taking a quick line out throw to James Puaca for him to race clear for the Ath's third try. Final score Bridgend Athletic 17-22 Pontypool.

The under-16s welcomed Bryncethin to Newbridge Fields for a friendly fixture, however; the Ath were only able to field 13 under-16 players due to injuries and an upcoming Ospreys fixture.

Massive thanks and credit to the three under-15 boys Charlie Ashpole, Jacob Perkins and Luke Griffiths who stepped up to help out having all just finished their own game. All three were outstanding and any independent supporter would never have known they were a year younger than all the other players.

The Ath absolutely dominated every facet of the first half against a Bryncethin team who had decided to include their Ospreys players. Strong running and great hands from forwards and backs saw them enter the opposition 22 wide out, but were stopped just short of the line. However, great strength and determination saw wing Tom Davies force himself over the line for a try magnificently converted from wide out by Euan Rees.

The Ath continued to dominate with Harry Cawley causing constant havoc in the Bryncethin three-quarter line. Number 8 Michael Gillette was in unstoppable mode and scored two tries from two barnstorming runs, scattering opposition players all over the field. The Ath turned around at half time 19-0 up with Bryncethin having not entered the Ath half.

The second half continued in much the same vein with the Ath again dominating, but squandering numerous try-scoring opportunities. One such dropped pass on the opposition 22 with the line begging, saw the Bryncethin wing race the full length of the field for a try under the posts which was converted by their outside half.

The Ath continued to dominate with every player contributing but they were not clinical enough to cross the whitewash. However, continuous pressure saw the ball moved out to the right and Euan Rees threw a sublime pass to Rhys Williams which saw him race away to score a try in the corner on his Ath debut.

Late in the game Bryncethin managed to pinch another try, with Ifan Hunnam managing to force his way over for a try which gave the final score line of Ath 24, Bryncethin 12, which was not a true reflection of the game.

All in all, a fantastic a game of rugby and every single Ath player should be proud of the part they played. and which shows the amount of strength in depth there is in this squad of talented rugby players. Well done boys!

Elaine is a first-time winner at bridge club

The Meskin Cup and Bowl winners with their trophies.

THE Porthcawl Duplicate Bridge Club held its main social event of the year on Thursday, February 7 – the Meskin Bowl (on handicap) and the Meskin Cup (scratch).

The handicap winners were Elaine and Mair, and the scratch winners were Roger and Rory. Elaine is fairly new to the game, and this was her first trophy win. The event was complemented by excellent cheese and wine provided by the club.

Latest results from the club are:

Saturday January 26 - First – John Beard and Tony Haworth; Second – Dave and Debbie Lea. **Thursday January 31** – Cancelled due to the weather conditions. **Saturday February 2** – First – Tony Haworth and John Beard; Second – Dil and Marian Evans. **Thursday February 7** – Meskin Bowl (handicap) – Elaine Barnett and Mair Davison; Meskin Cup (scratch) - Roger Draper and Rory Gibbons.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre Thursdays (6.45pm to 9.45pm); Saturdays (3.15pm. to 6.15pm. Visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary – Trish on 01656 785794

TH

Titans in first home win against Pembroke

ABOVE and BELOW: Action from the game with photographs from JAMES KAYE.

THE weather was against Tondu Titans from the start with hailstones, but the ladies were eager from the off to get a win against a well-matched developing side in Pembroke RFC.

Down to 13 players on the opposition due to injury, a Pembroke scrum allowed their number 10 to make a break. Tondu made the tackles but were unable to turn over the ball and the Pembroke No 12 scored their first try which went unconverted.

The Titans responded through Rhianne Taylor, the try converted by Carys Thomas and in the second quarter, the ladies were more determined, with little ground made by Pembroke.

The Tondu lineout provided the next try for the Titans through Jade Lines, which went unconverted, making the score 12-5.

Pembroke tried to make ground, but the Titan defence was strong and they scored the next try through Carys Thomas, and a few minutes later Jade Lines scored her second to take the scoreline to 22-5.

Pembroke scored a try to reduce the deficit to 22-10 but Katy Sage scored for the Titans and Kimberley Pritchard wrapped up the scoring with a try for a final score of 32-15.

Forward of the match and woman of the match went to Jade Lines, while back of the match went to Lisa Casey.

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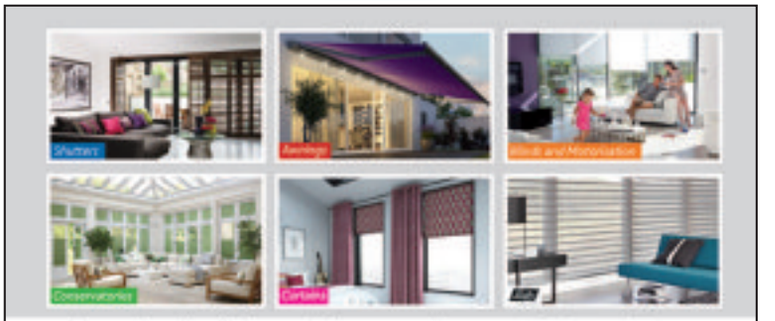

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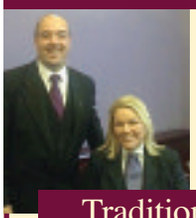

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Family Notices

DOWDELL
Herbert Ernest (Bert)

Peacefully on 1st February 2019, in the tender care of the Waverley Care Centre, Penarth, our beloved Bert, aged 84 years, sadly passed away following a stroke. Dearly beloved husband of Brenda and the late Thelma, much loved father of Jacqueline, Lesley, Ian and spouses. Cherished stepfather of Deborah, Andrew and spouses, adored bamps and grandfather to both sets of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Beloved big brother of Barbara, Gareth and Colin, stepbrother to the late Peter and Mary.

A celebration of Bert's life will be held at A.G. Adams Funeralcare on Monday, 18th February at 2.45pm, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to SOLACE an organisation who provide information and support to carers of older people with mental health needs.

Black attire optional.

A true Gentleman to the end.

ROBSON
Lilian Valerie (Val)

Val peacefully passed away at Llandough Hospital on 5th February, aged 92 years, in the loving presence of her family. Loving wife of the late Cyril, dearly loved mum of Alun, Stuart and Lesley.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the funeral service on Tuesday, 19th February 2019 at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, at 11am. Flowers may be sent to A.G. Adams, or a donation if desired, in memory of Val, may be made to Marie Curie Hospice, (Cardiff and the Vale), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

ASHWORTH
Luba Patricia

Luba passed away peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales on the 7th February, aged 85 years. Much loved mother and grandmother.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at 12.15pm on Thursday, 21st February at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major with a private family service afterwards at Coychurch Crematorium.

Please wear something colourful to the church service.

Family flowers only. Donations in Luba's memory welcomed to Dance for Parkinson's, National Dance Company Wales, Dance House, Wales Millennium Centre, Pierhead Street, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4PH.

MORGAN
Blodwen Gwawr

Suddenly at her home on Wednesday, 6th February, 2019; Blodwen of Romilly Park Road, Barry. Loving mother of Rhiannon, caring grandmother of Gruffydd, Howell and Gwendolen, mother-in-law of John. Beloved sister of Daniel and Mair and a dear aunty.

Public funeral service at Ebenezer Chapel, Upper Cwmtwrch on Wednesday, 20th February, 2019 at 11.30am. No Flowers.

For further information please contact O.G. Harries Ltd, Funeral Directors, Pontyberem. Tel (01269) 870350.

MORAN
Judith (*née Bassett*)

Died peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 7th February 2019, aged 77 years, sister of Michael, Mary and Vivienne.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Friday, 22nd February at 5pm.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home.

QUINN
Robert Jon (Jon)

Sadly passed away 21st January 2019, aged 49 years, a loving son to Diane, doting father to Chloe. Beloved brother to Sue and Steven, cherished uncle to Sammy and Chris.

Jon will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 21st February at 10am.

Family flowers only. Donations can be made in memory of Jon in favour of Ysgol Y Deri School at the service.

Welsh rugby, Manchester United or black and red attire welcomed.

DAVIES
Tony (Dapper)

Passed away peacefully on the 3rd February 2019 at UHW, Cardiff. Adored husband to Kathy.

Tony will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry, until a service to celebrate Tony's life on Friday, 22nd February, 11am, at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. No flowers by request, but donations in memory of Tony can be made to Romilly School sports fund. These may be made at the service or sent to the funeral directors.

MURPHY
William Christopher

Bill of Porthkerry Road, Rhoose (late of City of Cork) passed away Friday, 8th February at Llandough Hospital.

Bill will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday 21st February, service 12.45pm at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Barry followed by interment 2pm at Porthkerry Cemetery, Rhoose.

HAWKINS
Geoffrey

In loving memory of my best friend and husband Geoff, who died on the 8th February at Holme Towers.

Loving stepdad and bampi. Always a Rhoose boy.

Geoff will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

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KNIGHT
John

(of Llantwit Major)

Peacefully after a short illness, John, much loved husband of Jean, loving father of Louise. Sadly missed by his brothers and sisters.

John will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service at St Illtyd's Church on Monday, 18th February at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to Marie Curie, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

KNIGHT
John

(A one and wanted)

Sadly missed by his brothers and sisters Don, Anne, the late Terry, Paul, Heather, Jennifer, Julie and his brother and sister-in-laws.

Forever in our hearts.

GILES
Gail

Sadly passed away on 7th February 2019, aged 75 years. Beloved wife to the late Randall, loving mother to Michelle and Suzanne and dear grandmother to Lewis, Michael and Jessica.

Gail will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 20th February at 12 noon, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home. Donations may be made in memory of Gail in favour of The Stroke Association.

TURNER
Sylvia Mary Novello
(*née Hartland*)

Suddenly passed away on 6th February 2019, aged 86 years. Beloved wife of Victor (Vic) and cherished aunty and great aunty.

Will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, 20th February, service 1.30pm at St Athan Church, followed by cremation 3pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital welcomed in memory of Sylvia c/o the funeral director.

MAKINEN
Janice Elizabeth

Passed away peacefully at home on 6th February 2019, surrounded by her loving family. Loving wife of Peter, devoted mother of Gavin and Andrew and adored nan to Ella. Beloved sister, aunt and great aunt, she will be dearly missed.

Janice is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis at the Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Wednesday, 20th February at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Headway the Brian Injury Association c/o the funeral director.

JILL EVANS
formerly
JILL MORGAN
(of West End, Llantwit Major)

Margaret, Jim and Alun wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy with cards, flowers and kind offers of support in so many ways on the tragic death of their beautiful daughter and beloved sister Jill. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Jill's funeral will take place at 11.30am on Friday, 1st March at Colwall Parish Church, Nr. Malvern, Worcestershire, followed by cremation in Hereford.

GARNIER
Josephine Anne
(*née Jenkins*)

Passed away peacefully at Jersey Hospice on 8th February, aged 54 years with her loving Pete by her side.

Funeral details will follow. Any enquiries contact Thomas Bros on 01446 775681.

PERRY
Christopher Paul

Peacefully at home on 4th February 2019, Chris aged 64 years. Loved father, grampy and brother.

Chris will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday, 19th February at 1pm, followed by interment .

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Acknowledgements

NOBLE
Annie Catherine (Kitty)

Mary, David, Thomas and Anne, along with their families, would like to extend their heartfelt thanks for all the messages and kindness shown during this sad and difficult time.

We would like to thank the staff of Springbanks Nursing Home for taking such good care of our mother and making her feel at home. A special thanks to the residents for their companionship to Kitty. We would also like to thank Father Kevin for a sensitive funeral service and all those who attended. Many thanks for the generous donations to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Finally, we would also like to thank Joseph and A.G. Adams Funeralcare for the dignified funeral arrangements.

THOMAS
David Hywel

Annelie, Simon and Louise extend their heartfelt thanks to all family, friends and colleagues past and present for their kind messages, donations and especially their presence at the celebration of Hywel's life.

They would like to thank Reverend Alun Evans for conducting a very moving service. Special thanks to Mark Mortimer-Davies for the reading. Finally, thanks to Mair and Port Talbot and Margam Funeralcare for their compassion and guidance at this very sad time.

MORGAN
Dillwyn

Mary and family wish to thank everyone for their support and condolences at this sad time.

Many thanks to Reverend Steven Adams and all who attended Dillwyn's funeral.

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Wales on Sunday	11,068	8,898	Paid £1.70

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Remember - we distribute over 45,000 complimentary copies of The GEM throughout the Vale, Bridgend & Porthcawl every week – packed with all the content that makes a community newspaper really worth reading! Information via abc (Figures correct as of March 2018)

Netball squad are the Welsh champions!

The under-16s squad who claimed the Welsh Championship.

The under-14s squad were split into two teams and finished first and second.

THE Cardiff and Vale under-16 netball squad travelled to Bangor University recently for the Welsh under-16 Inter-Counties Championships.

The squad of 25 players were selected in September from over 150 girls from all the secondary schools in Cardiff and the Vale.

The squads were split into the A team and the B team and both teams had a tough encounter to start against Glamorgan Valleys, but did not miss a beat after the opening game, beating South East Wales convincingly and then beating West Wales, Powys, North Wales and ANT.

The B squad were winning matches by huge goal margins and only needed to secure a win in the last match of the tournament to be named Welsh champions, which they did emphatically.

The A squad had to beat the North East to secure silver medal position and with both the Cardiff and Vale Squad and the North East having numerous Wales under-17 players, the girls had to pull on all their experience and mental toughness to secure the victory, which they did. All the secondary schools should be extremely proud of these young netballers and what they have achieved.

A squad: Elli Beddall (captain), Cardiff High School; Gwenno Manley (vice captain), Cardiff High School; Abbie Pattison, Corpus Christi High School; Mabli Evans, Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Naimh Sultana, Stanwell Comprehensive, Thea Mycroft, Cardiff High School; Roslyn Hill, Ysgol Glantaf; Georgia Hellerman, St Richard Gwyn High School; Rhian Dawes, Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Lowri Clarke, Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Catrin Roy, Cowbridge Comprehensive; Niamh Driscoll, Radyr Comprehensive.

B squad: Ella Forsyth (captain), Pencoedtre High School; Jessica Richards-Clode (vice captain), Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Tanisha Johnson (vice captain), Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Tyla Johnson, Ysgol Bro Ederyn; Alexa Browning, Cowbridge Comprehensive; Abbie Price, Llantwit Comprehensive; Annabelle Walters, Howells School; Rhiannon Thomas,Ysgol Glanfaf; Emily Backhouse, Corpus Christi High School; Hannah Rolands, Ysgol Plasmawr; Chloe Berrow, St Richard Gwyn High School; Elkie Warlow, Bishop of Llandaff; Abbie Morgan, Radyr Comprehensive.

Coach: Melanie Hellerman (Corpus Christie), Melissa Hunter (Stanwell Comprehensive).

The under-14 netball squad attended the Welsh under-14 Inter-Counties Championships on February 11 in Cardiff.

The squads were also split into the A team and the B team.

Both teams had a tough encounter to start against Glamorgan Valleys but came out victorious and showed great maturity and determination.

The squads won all their matches against, North West, Powys, South East, West Wales and ANT.

Both had tough encounters against the North East; the B victorious and the A just losing out. The A squad finished silver medal winners and the B Squad winners and Welsh Champions. Huge congratulations go to all the players and the schools they represent.

A squad: Carys Roy (captain), Cowbridge Comprehensive; Mali Davies (captain), Ysgol Glantaf; Katy Brain, Corpus Christi; Anna Miles, Stanwell; Harriet Henson, Cardiff High; Emily Savastano, Ysgol Glantaf; Isabella Wigley, Corpus Christi; Johannah Rogers, Corpus Christi; Maddelise Tiessen, Cowbridge Comprehensive; Betsy Thomas, Bro Ederyn; Lola Evans, Stanwell; Louise Cleall, Radyr.

B squad: Catrin Powell (captain), Ysgol Glantaf; Megan Hutchings (captain), Ysgol Glantaf; Martha Hurford, Cardiff High; Mali Cronk, Cathedral School; Carys Rees, St Johns; Chalise Colderley, Stanwell; Mia Gibbs, Stanwell; Lowri Pinnell, Corpus Christi; Lucy Harrison, Cathedral School; Jessica Plevey, St Richard Gwyn; Tilly Morgan, Cardiff High; Annie Isherwood, Stanwell.

Coach: Melanie Hellerman (Corpus Christi), Melissa Hunter (Stanwell).

MH

Tyson Fury comes to Wales

TYSON Fury, the former unified heavyweight world champion, spoke at Cornerstones in Cardiff on Friday, February 8, at an event hosted by Brendan Lyons, founder of Lyons Den promotions.

He gave a passionate and poignant talk, engaging the audience with tales of his rise to the top of heavyweight boxing which he refers to as his 'first career,' before his well-published battles with mental health.

Tyson spent most of his time during his talk, giving a passionate account of how he overcame his mental health struggles through vigorous training and psychical fitness.

He also shared with the captivated audience his new outlook on life and how he spends more time with his family, handling his time, energy and the many demands of fame better than he had formerly.

Fury made clear his gratitude to be alive and explained that being sat before the audience in a healthy and happy frame of mind was indeed better than any amount of money earned from his fights, or any belt or accolade he has won throughout his career thus far.

The heavyweight said he is not afraid to fight Anthony Joshua, and he would happily take on Deontay Wilder again because doesn't like remarks Deontay has made regarding British fighters.

Fury has fought his hardest battles outside of the ring and showed the audience that afternoon that anything is possible with determination and hard work.

Report and photo by Liam Hartery

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Public Notice
Licensing Act 2003

To whom it may concern,
We, **Mack Events Presents Ltd** do hereby give notice that we have applied to The Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at **Romilly Park Road, Barry, CF62 6RN** known as **Romilly Park.**

The licensable activities will be, **provision of films, provision of live music, provision of recorded music, provision of performances of dance, provision of anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performances of dance, supply of alcohol.**

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Any person(s) wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the **Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** not later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below). Representation received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the Application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: M. Blumberg
Date: 13/02/2019

Holton Road enjoy cup success

HOLTON Road progressed to the Supporters Cup on a wet and windy Saturday afternoon.

It was perfect conditions for an epic cup battle with the league champions facing second-placed Tynewydd FC.

In typical cup style there were many twists and turns with Holton overcoming their spirited opponents 4-3 in a frantic end to end match.

At one point Holton were trailing 3-1.

Holton opened the scoring with Jack Cutajar calmly finishing a loose ball in the box, which spurredTynewydd into action and they scored three goals to potentially turn the tie on its head.

But when Linford Harris netted just before half-time the comeback was on.

Shaun Jachontow levelled the tie shortly after the break and this gave Holton the momentum to go on and snatch the tie with a fine finish from Ryan Hales sealing the victory.

Coach Jeff Howells said: "This was another test of the lads' resilience and never-give-up attitude.

"Tynewydd always give us a good challenge and this was no exception. They deserve a lot of credit for implementing a game plan to try and unsettle us but fortunately for us we held out for the win.

"We once again showed we can not only play decent football, but can also dig in when it matters.

"Well done lads, and thanks to everyone who supported us from the sidelines on a cold wintry afternoon."

Jeff added: "I am currently promoting a Gofund Me event for Holton Road AFC minis and juniors where I am sky diving 15,000 feet (maximum UK altitude) to raise funds for the club to give us financial stability and to pay for training equipment, facilities, coaches courses, medical supplies, the list goes on.

"We have approximately 150 youngsters registered with the club and 18 coaches so the costs of successfully running this are increasing each year; it would be nice to be able to cover some of these costs and take some pressure off the financial section of the club.

"I realise money can be tight but every small donation will be greatly appreciated.

"To donate please visit my Facebook page or click on the link in my bio on Instagram. Alternatively go directly to the Gofund Me website and search Holton Road Skydive link *www.gofundme.com/holton-road-skydive*.

"Many thanks."

JH

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Bridgend Sports RFC mini and junior round-up

IT was another frustrating week of disrupted fixtures for Bridgend Sports RFC mini and junior teams with the under-10s, under-13s and under-15s losing their scheduled fixtures due to the winter weather.

The under-7s travelled to Pyle with a depleted squad because of illness and holiday but they all gave 100 per cent.

The first half was fast paced and very close with both sides scoring impressive tries. In the second half the Sports produced their best team performance of the season, and went on to win the game with some great turnovers and tries.

There were tries for Eli McCausland, Isaac Dando, Riley Lewis and Isaac Davies. The man of the match award went to Isaac Dando for four fantastic tries and for making some crucial turnovers. The whole team really dug in and the coaches were extremely proud of the side's effort and commitment.

The weather could not stop the under-8s as they played three periods in an away fixture at Tonna.

The squad continues to improve in defence and support every week. It was a game played in great spirit with the Sports outscoring their opponents by 17 tries to nine.

The under-9s accompanied the under-8s on their trip to Tonna to play on a very soft pitch, and were not helped by the cold and damp conditions.

Thankfully, the rain largely held off for the game and the wind was light. The squad was depleted through illness but all players enjoyed plenty of game time.

The Sports displayed some impressive support play and an uncanny ability to find the gaps in Tonna's defence. Running with ball in hand was a struggle for both teams, but the players adapted well and ensured the supporters got to watch some exciting rugby.

While all Sports players were tired by the final whistle, the tiredness was outweighed by the joy of outscoring their opponents by 40 points to 75, with the Sports managing to win all three periods played.

However, great credit is given to Tonna for closing the winning margin by one try for games two and three.

For the Sports, Dan Perriman scored an impressive six tries, while Max Hearing and Thomas Roberts got a further three each.

Not to be left out, Dan Flower also scored two and Sam Heycock crossed the try line for a well-deserved try.

With only the star player trophy up for grabs and so many players to choose from, it was agreed that Rhiwbyn David and Rafferty Williams should be joint winners for their solid defensive work which turned the possession over a few times.

The under-11s hosted a good Kenfig Hill team who started the stronger with good hard rucking.

The Sports fought hard and kept competing but could not prevent Kenfig Hill from taking a 12-0 lead in the first half.

The Sports woke up a little in the second half and dominated the ruck area to play a better brand of rugby to score two tries through Finley Goodwin and Charlie Paget, with one conversion.

Kenfig Hill hit back with two further tries and conversions to win the game 12-26.

Both sides contributed to a very enjoyable game. Sports' star player was Gabriel Burroughs.

The heavy conditions at Newbridge Fields made for a pitch that was heavy underfoot, which conspired to produce a scrappy game.

In the spirit of supporting the value of rugby for all, the Sports loaned players to Pencoed to ensure all players had the opportunity of game time and both sides had equal numbers for a full 15-a-side game.

The game was a bit stop/start, but the Sports eventually managed to play some good rugby at times.

The Sports forwards carried the ball well in the difficult conditions.

Despite this, the home side were disappointed to concede a try at the end of the game, especially when it was scored by one of their own players. The Sports ran out winners 45-5.

SP

The under-12s in action against Pencoed.

Cavaliers look towards 2019

LLANTWIT Major Cavaliers recently held their AGM which gave the club the opportunity to reflect on a steady 2018 season and plan for 2019.

Club stalwarts Neal Pritchard and Dave Cheal have announced their intention to relinquish their committee positions of chairman and secretary respectively, which they have held since 2007.

Dave is retiring from cricket altogether due to injury while Neal will continue to support cricket in the Vale by running the youth section of the Cavs.

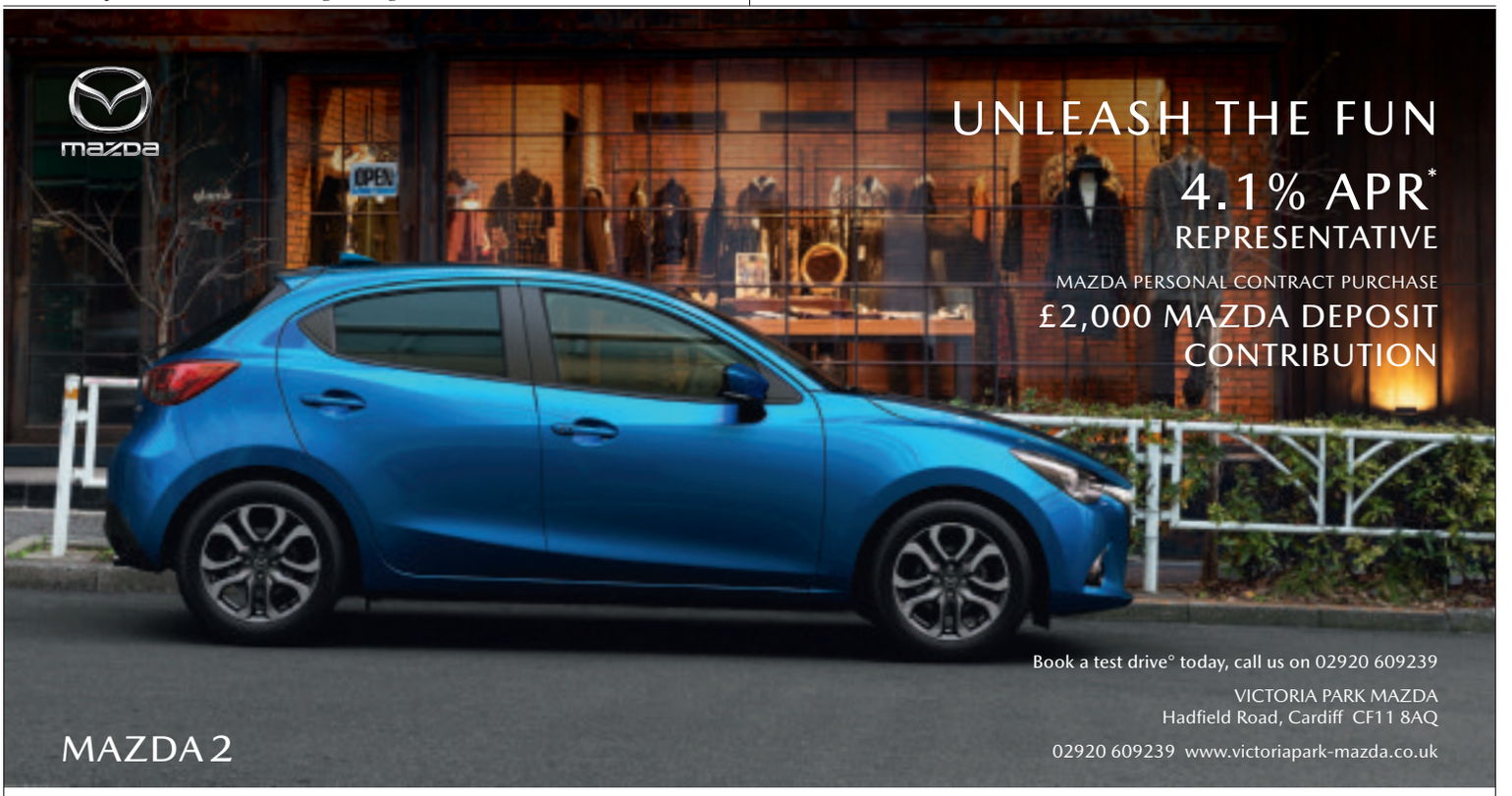
During the meeting it was decided that there would be a fresh approach to team leadership with first team captain Scott Buckley changing his key role within the club to become first team manager and Gareth Toutt taking over as first team captain.

The Cavs' family would like to express their sincere thanks to Neal, Dave and Scott for all their help, guidance, and hard work over the years. The club is in a great position to push forward and provide cricket for many years to come.

Plans are in place to ensure that the Cavs push ahead in the 2019 season. Pre-season indoor nets are booked for both the seniors and juniors, and plans to improve the outdoor nets are already starting to take shape to ensure that they are ready for the start of the new season

Next season the Cavs will play in the SWCA Division 5, a league which provides a challenge for the more accomplished player while allowing plenty of opportunity for new and returning players to get back into cricket.

Senior nets have already started with a strong turnout and will continue Sunday, February 17 at 4.15pm in the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry. Junior nets start that same day at 12.45pm in Llantwit Major leisure centre.



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda2 range: Combined 47.9 (5.9) - 49.6 (5.7)^. CO_2 emissions (g/km) 127 - 111.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO_2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. ^There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO_2 figures. The CO_2 figures shown however, are based on the outgoing test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration.

Retail sales only, subject to availability for vehicles registered between 18.12.18 and 31.03.19 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *4.1% APR Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all new Mazda models. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: Mazda2 GT Sport Nav+ 90ps manual. OTR from £16,795. Model shown features Optional Dynamic Blue Mica (£540). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other unless specified. **Victoria Park Motor Company Limited, trading as Victoria Park Mazda is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.**

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16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium 5dr 4WD 7-Seater, Hyundai warranty April 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 29k, white, full leather **£18495**

16 66 INFINITI QX30 2.2 D Premium Tech 5dr DCT Automatic, Infiniti warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, grey, full leather **£19495**

16 16 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, dab, 18"baclk alloys, 22k, red, full leather **£20495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE Dynamic Lux 5dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, blue, full leather **£28995**

12 62 VW AMAROK 2.0 BITDI Highline Pick-Up 4Motion 4dr Automatic No VAT, 19"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, silver, full leather **£14495**

13 13 BMW X3 2.0 D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, red, full leather **£13495**

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black **£8995**

16 16 BMW X1 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 24k, met white **£19495**

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SD V6 SE Tech 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 30k, silver, full leather **£28495**

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, met green, full leather **£15295**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice **£20495**

15 65 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT Tech Match 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, white **£13495**

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Nismo 5dr 4WD CVT Automatic (197bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, white **£10295**

15 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, dab, heated seats, 33k, grey, half-leather **£19995**

15 15 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr S-Tronic, sat nav, pdc, Bluetooth, heated seats, red, full leather **£19995**

16 66 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 5dr, Audi warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, heated seats, full leather, choice of manual or s-tronic from **£24495**

16 66 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 3dr (306bhp), Audi warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, xenons, 23k, white, half-leather **£23995**

15 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, dab, heated seats, 33k, grey, half-leather **£19995**

17 67 BMW 330 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, 17k, silver, full leather **£22495**

16 16 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, dab, 18"baclk alloys, 22k, red, full leather **£20495**

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, M sport + pack, LED headlights, sat nav, 19"alloys, 20k, grey, full leather **£22995**

16 66 BMW 335 DXDrive M Sport Estate Automatic, BMW warranty Jan 2020, M sport + pack, Harman kardon, 19"alloys, sat nav, 22k, met grey, full leather **£24995**

16 66 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport Estate, BMW warranty Dec 2019, pan roof, pro media – sat nav, heated seats, 20k, champagne quartz, full leather **£26995**

16 67 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport GT 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 7k, silver, full leather **£23995**

17 17 BMW 420 I XDrive Sport Gran Coupe 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 25k, grey, full leather **£20995**

15 65 BMW 420 DXDrive Luxury 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 39k, grey, full leather **£17995**

15 65 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport 2dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, 27k, black, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr, sat nav plus, electric memory seats, 10k, black, full leather **£19995**

16 16 BMW X1 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 24k, met white **£19495**

16 66 BMW X1 XDrive D M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, 21k, blue **£20495**

13 13 BMW X3 2.0 D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, red, full leather **£13495**

13 13 BMW X5 4.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, pan roof, media pack – sat nav, 20"alloys, heated seats, black, full leather **£19995**

16 66 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 210 Titanium 5dr Powershift 4WD, Ford warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, 19"alloys, reverse camera, black **£21995**

16 66 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr 4x4, Ford warranty Dec 2019, appearance pack, 19"alloys, blue, half-leather **£13995**

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD Premium 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 18k, black, full leather **£19995**

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather **£20995**

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium 5dr 4WD 7-Seater, Hyundai warranty April 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 29k, white, full leather **£18495**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRD Premium 4WD 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 18k, grey, full leather **£18995**

16 66 INFINITI QX30 2.2 D Premium Tech 5dr DCT Automatic, Infiniti warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, grey, full leather **£19495**

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0 DV6 S AWD 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black, full leather **£37495**

15 65 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, white, full leather **£17495**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, black, full leather **£22995**

14 64 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, reverse camera, dab, grey, full leather **£18495**

16 16 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Summit 5dr 4x4 Automatic, Jeep warranty April 2019, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 20"alloys, met red, full leather **£23995**

16 16 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 M-Jet II Longitude 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, pan roof, 17"alloys, blue, 22k **£13495**

15 65 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRD KX3 5dr Automatic AWD (7-Seater), Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 21k, white, full leather **£22995**

18 68 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI GT-Line S 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Kia warranty Sept 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, only 527 miles, grey, full leather **£33995**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, 20k, white **£16495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 24k, black, full leather **£18495**

12 12 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-3 5dr AWD, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 18"alloys, silver, full leather **8995**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 31k, black, full leather **£13995**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 23k, met red, full leather **£18995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line 5dr 4WD, sat nav, 19" alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, black with full leather **£17495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 5dr Automatic 4WD, KIA warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 24k, silver **£16795**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr AWD Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 24k, white, full leather **£20995**

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Black 5dr Automatic 4x4 7-Seater, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 26k, orange, full leather **£26495**

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SD V6 SE Tech 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 30k, silver, full leather **£28495**

15 65 LAND ROVER RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE Dynamic 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 20k, red, full leather **£26995**

16 65 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr 4WD, sat nav, 18"alloys, blue, full leather **£21795**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE Dynamic Lux 5dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, blue, full leather **£28995**

12 62 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 SDV6 HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, 20"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, reverse camera, black, full leather **£19995**

18 18 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.5 Cooper ALL4 5dr, Mini warranty April 2021, chilli pack, sat nav, heated seats, only 1903 miles, green **£21995**

13 63 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D All4 5dr, Privacy glass, Bluetooth, aux, usb, silver **£9995**

15 64 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D ALL4 5dr, chilli + tlc pack, 27k, white, half-leather **£11495**

15 65 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D ALL4 5dr, chilli + tlc pack, media pack – sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£12995**

15 15 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 D Cooper Business Edition All4 5dr Automatic, sat nav, white **£13495**

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Nismo 5dr 4WD CVT Automatic (197bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, white **£10295**

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black **£8995**

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£11495**

16 16 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI N-Connecta 5dr 4WD, Nissan warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, black **£14495**

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, met green, full leather **£15295**

15 64 TOYOTA RAV4 2.2 D-4S Icon 5dr Automatic, cruise, reverse camera, 28k, white **£14495**

12 62 VW AMAROK 2.0 BITDI Highline Pick-Up 4Motion 4dr Automatic No VAT, 19"alloys, sat nav, heated seats, silver, full leather **£14495**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice **£20495**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG 4WD, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 21k, choice **£21995**

15 65 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT Tech Match 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, white **£13495**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 220 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Volvo warranty April 2019, sat nav, privacy glass, white, half-leather **£20495**

15 15 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 SE Lux 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, heated seats, 28k, met blue, full leather **£18995**

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15 15 ALFA ROMEO MITO 0.9 TB TwinAir 105 QV Line 3dr, DAB, privacy glass, 20k, black, full leather **£7495**

14 14 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI S-Line Style Edition 3dr, Bluetooth, 31k, red, half-leather **£11495**

18 18 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI Ultra SE Estate, Audi warranty May 2021, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, Bluetooth, 2k, blue **£22995**

15 65 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, privacy glass, comfort pack, 17"alloys, white **£11495**

15 65 BMW 116 D Efficient Dynamics Plus 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, choice **£10795**

15 64 BMW M135i 3.0 M Sports 5dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 34k, orange, full oyster leather **£16995**

16 66 BMW 218 I Sport Convertible 2dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, pdc, aux, usb, 28k, white **£15495**

16 66 BMW 218 D M Sport Convertible, BMW warranty Oct 2019, M sport+ pack, reverse camera, heated seats, 18k, white, full leather **£17995**

15 65 BMW 320 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, M sport + pack, sat nav, black, full leather **£14495**

17 67 BMW 330 2.0 E SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat av privacy glass, 18k, Met Grey **£18495**

16 66 BMW 420 I Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic (184bhp), BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, white, full leather **£20495**

16 16 BMW 430i M Sport 2dr Automatic, M sport plus pack, 19" alloys, Harman Kardon, wide screen sat nav, met grey, full leather **£21495**

16 16 BMW 420 D 190 M Sport 2dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, grey, full leather **£17495**

16 66 BMW 420 D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£19495**

17 67 BMW 420 D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, M sport plus pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, blue, 14k, full leather **£23995**

15 15 BMW 520 DSE 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£12995**

15 65 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£13995**

16 16 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, 19"alloys, pro media, M sport + pack, grey, full leather **£15795**

18 18 BMW 530 E M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty June 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, dab, 10k, blue, full leather **£31995**

14 14 BMW 640 DM Sport 2dr Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, head up display, soft close doors, 43k, carbon black, full ivory white leather **£20995**

16 66 BMW 640 3.0 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, M sport + pack, sat nav, 20"alloys, privacy glass, choice, full leather, 9k, from **£25795**

16 66 BMW M4 3.0 T DCT 2dr Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, sakhir orange, full leather **£34995**

14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI 115 Airdream DSport 3dr, air-con, aux, cruise, 30k, white **£6795**

16 66 DS DS3 1.6 BlueHDI Prestige 3dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, black **£8495**

15 15 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI DStyle Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, pdc, aux, white **£7495**

15 65 FIAT 500 0.9 TwinAir Vintage 57 3dr, Bluetooth, blue, full leather **£5995**

12 62 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, alloys, 24k, blue **£4995**

15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 S 3dr, air-con, Bluetooth, alloys, aux, usb, white, privacy glass, half-leather **£5495**

16 16 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop 3dr, CD, aux, usb, 16k, white **£5995**

17 17 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, PDC, green **£6995**

15 65 FIAT 500X 1.6 D MultiJet Cross 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 31k, red **£8995**

16 65 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, blue, half-leather **£8995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line 3dr, Ford warranty Nov 2019, air-con, 17"alloys, privacy glass, 11k, choice **£10495**

17 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 T EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 7k, black **£9995**

18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr (New Model), Ford warranty February 2021, sat nav, 17"Alloys, Bluetooth, 8k, choice **£12295**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, aux, usb, choice **£6795**

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Estate, Ford warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 17"alloys, 29k, black, half-leather **£12495**

15 65 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI 185 ST-3 Navigation 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, full leather **£12795**

16 66 FORD KUGA 1.5 T EcoBoost ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 23k, white, half-leather **£16995**

15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Econetic Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, dab, aux, choice **£8495**

17 17 HONDA CIVIC 1.5 VTEC Sport 5dr (180bhp), Honda warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 23k, blue **£15995**

15 65 JAGUAR XE 2.0 D 180 R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, dab, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather **£16995**

16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) R-Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£18995**

14 64 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr, sat nav, dab, white, full leather **£10995**

14 64 KIA CARENS 1.7 CRDI 3 5dr (7-Seater), Kia warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather **£11995**

16 66 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 4dr, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver **£12995**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI ISG 2 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, cruise, aux, usb, 25k, white **£11995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI 1 5dr, KIA warranty Oct 2023, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 17k, black **£12295**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 2 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, cruise, white, half-leather **£11295**

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 3 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2024, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 19k, blue, full leather **£18495**

15 15 MAZDA 3 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, heated seats, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather **£9495**

17 17 MERCEDES A180 1.6 AMG Line 5dr, Mercedes warranty April 2020, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 25k, white, half-leather **£16995**

17 67 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line 2dr 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, 9k, black, full leather **£24995**

15 65 MERCEDES C300 2.2 H Sport Premium Estate Automatic, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 38k, blue, full leather **£19795**

18 67 MERCEDES C300H AMG Line 4dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, silver, 6k, full leather **£26495**

15 65 MERCEDES C350 E Sport Estate Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue, full leather **£16995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 Sport Estate, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, grey, half leather **£17495**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 5dr, Mini warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, dab, air-con, aux, usb, blue, 27k **£10995**

15 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 S 192 3dr, John Cooper Works pack, tlc pack, media XL – sat nav, heated seats, 13k, red, full leather **£13995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 D S 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, Bluetooth, dab, 11k, choice **£12995**

17 17 MINI COOPER 2.0 S Seven 5dr (192bhp), Mini warranty June 2020, media pack XL, sat nav, chili pack, 8k, black **£15495**

13 13 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.6 2dr, 17"alloys, Air-Con, dab, pdc, 43k, black **£7795**

11 61 MINI COUPE 1.6 Cooper S 3dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 54k, black, full leather **£6995**

15 65 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 Cooper 3dr, Bluetooth, tlc pack, dab, alloys, 17k, white **£9995**

15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Tekna 5dr (187bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£9795**

16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, white **£10295**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr (New Model), Nissan warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, tech pack, 5k, red **£15495**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, aux, usb, 27k, white **£11995**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec + 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, cruise, choice **£11295**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr X-Tronic 7-Seater, Nissan warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, cruise, 23k, black **£15995**

16 16 PEUGEOT 208 1.2 PureTech XS Lime 3dr, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, white **£6795**

17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE Energy Expression + 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, Bluetooth, cruise, 6k, black **£10795**

14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Medianav Energy 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 23k, choice **£8495**

15 65 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, aux, Met Red **£7995**

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Energy S Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 9k, silver **£13995**

15 65 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 Toca 3dr, sat nav, air-con, alloys, red **£5495**

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 TSI 125 FR Technology 5dr, Seat warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 8k, choice from **£12795**

16 16 SEAT LEON 2.0 TSI Cupra 3dr (290bhp), Seat warranty August 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, 15k, red, full leather **£16995**

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE-L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black **£11995**

17 17 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI Laurin & Klement 5dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, full leather, silver **£18495**

16 16 SMART FORFOUR 1.0 Prime Premium 5dr, warranty until April 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, white, full leather **£7495**

17 67 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 20k, silver, full leather **£11995**

16 16 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTI ecoFLEX Design 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, silver **£8795**

16 16 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 Exclusive 5dr, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, choice **£8495**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 5dr, VW warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 12k, Black **£17295**

15 65 VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI SE Business 4dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 43k, grey **£11995**

16 66 VW POLO 1.4 TSI ACT Blue GT 3dr, VW warranty Dec 2019, electric glass sunroof, Bluetooth, cruise, choice **£11795**

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TSI Bluemotion Tech R 3dr (280bhp), VW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, heated seats, 17k, white, full leather **£19995**

15 65 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI 184 Bluemotion Tech R–Line 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, 29k, choice, full leather **£14795**

15 15 VW UP 1.0 Move Up 5dr, air-con, dab, electric windows, 10k, silver **£5995**

15 15 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, heated seats, dab, Bluetooth, choice **£10495**

17 67 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 (152) R-Design Pro 5dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 18"alloys, 18k, choice **£14995**

18 18 VOLVO V90 2.0 D4 R-Design Estate Geartronic, Volvo warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 6k, grey, half-leather **£26995**

16 66 MAZDA 3 2.0 Sport Black 5dr, Mazda warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, white, half-leather **£13995**

16 66 BMW 430 D M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2019, pro sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, black, full leather **£19995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 3dr, Mini warranty Jan 2020, chilli pack, cruise, Bluetooth, green, half-leather **£8995**

17 17 HYUNDAI IONIQ 1.6 GDI Hybrid SE 5dr DCT Automatic, Hyundai warranty July 2022, reverse camera, cruise, white **£14495**

16 66 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 SZ-L 5dr, Suzuki warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, privacy glass, 27k, white **£7295**

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Bridgend Athletic's impressive away win at Dinas Powys

A MUCH-changed Bridgend Athletic side avenged an opening day home defeat by third-placed Dinas Powys by becoming only the third side to win at the Common this season.

Top sides Glamorgan Wanderers and Rhiwbina were the other two, but even they could not match the Athletic preventing the determined home side from crossing the whitewash in an impressive 14-3 victory.

Only outside half Aled Thomas (scrum half in that game) and centre Tom Jenkins survived in the back division, while props Matthew Muir and Wayne Fooks, lock Jonathon Stoker and back row forwards Sean Williams and Ben Davies also turned out in both fixtures.

For the second week running, flanker and captain Ben Howe was man of the match, while fellow back row forwards Ben Davies and Sean Williams were in the thick of the action throughout.

The coaches have completely re-jigged the back division with six of the selected backs aged 18-22, though full back Levi Hallett dropped out on the day to be replaced by permit player Jacob Williams, a former Athletic scrum half, who added his experience to the young back line. Two of the backs, centre Tom Davies and wing Owain Leyshon, have successfully converted from the back row this season.

Dinas kicked off with the benefit of a strong wind and the slope in their favour. The Athletic responded with the whole front row of Fooks, Muir and Lee Murphy and locks Stoker and Ben Cording carrying effectively.

Dinas had been successful by moving the ball wide in the first game and despite wind advantage, tried to adopt the same tactic from all parts of the field. They had no change out of centres Jenkins and Davies and wings Leyshon and Tom James who, along with the back row of Howe, Davies and Williams, tackled everything that moved.

The deadlock was finally broken on the half-hour when full Ben White kicked the home side ahead with a straight forward penalty inside the Athletic 22.

The scrum and lineout with Cording, Stoker and Williams effective allowed half backs Dan James and Aled Thomas to dictate play.

The Athletic tried a five-metre lineout driving maul in the closing minute and were held up conceding a five-metre scrum to Powys.

However, with the final play of the half centre Tom Davies charged down the attempted clearance kick and successfully regathered to dive over under the posts for his third try of the season. Outside half Thomas converted to give the Athletic a 7-3 lead and leave the home side ruing their inability to capitalise on favourable first half conditions, despite having plenty of possession.

ABOVE: Centre Tom Davies crosses the line for Bridgend Athletic. BELOW: Man of the match Ben Howe looks for an opening. ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANNON.

In the opening minute of the second period Howe stripped the ball in a tackle and raced into the 22. He was hauled down just short.

No 8 Ben Davies went close before a knock on gave relief to the home side. Wings Owain Leyshon and Tom James made good runs to keep the Athletic on the front foot. Outside half Thomas was also keeping the Athletic in advanced positions with astute tactical kicking.

After 55 minutes, from a five-metre driving maul, Dinas forced the Athletic infield and halted it just in front of the posts. However, diminutive scrum half Dan James picked up and, spotting a gap, raced through it untouched to cross for his fifth try of the season.

It was also his 100th Athletic senior point with 20 tries in 47 appearances, showing his keen eye for scoring opportunities. Thomas converted to bring up a 14-3 Athletic lead.

From the restart the Athletic fumbled. This galvanised the home side who mounted attack after attack only to be repelled by a determined and well-drilled Athletic defence, determined to extend their winning run to six games in the last seven fixtures. Dan Apsee, son of coach John, played out the final quarter.

Coaches John Apsee, Stuart Morris, David Williams, Gerald Williams and team manager Paul Hearne, along with the superb attitude of the players in training, deserve great credit for turning around the Athletic's season.

With only 14 points from the opening nine games they have gained 25 points from the next seven to stand in fifth place in the table with 39 points.

The Athletic face another tough game away at Cambrian Welfare this Saturday, February 16, to keep their momentum going.

AB

Tondu find their flair in bonus point victory

David Grigg crosses the try line, while BELOW: Steffan Jones breaks. ALL PICTURES BY GARETH ANTHONY.

TONDU RFC haven't had the best of seasons, but this was surely their best performance of the season against Glynneath and will do plenty for the confidence of the players and supporters as we enter the business end of the season.

Things did not start too well for the Waterwheelers, as a Glynneath side brimming with confidence went over for a first minute pushover try, Gareth Hall getting the touchdown for Jack O'Reilly to add the extra points.

Tondu were soon on level terms, though, when influential lock Steffan Jones charged down an O'Reilly clearance kick over his own line to score an opportunist try. Josh Tatchell added the conversion to bring the scores level.

Both sides had chances to increase their account during a lively first half, but the 7-7 half time scoreline was probably a fair reflection of what was witnessed.

The second period was just as electrifying, and a wonderful move from the home side saw outside half Luke Whithall put Matthew Murphy in for a well-worked try. The conversion was successful from Tatchell and Tondu were now the side brimming with confidence.

They added to their lead five minutes later when Aled Jones put in neat chip over the visitors' defence for centre Stuart Young to collect and run in a third try; Tatchell added the conversion.

The game looked done and dusted, but with the referee playing around 10 minutes of stoppage time, there was still time for two more tries.

Despite an exceptional defensive display from the home side, hooker Craig Tennent was able to crash over in the corner for the visitors and O'Reilly added the conversion to bring his side within one score.

It was Tondu who finished the game in the ascendancy, though, and when another clearance kick went wrong, it could not have fallen to a better player than man of the match David Griggs, who sailed over for the bonus point try.

Tatchell kicked his fourth conversion to give him a 100 per cent record on the day, and end the scoring at 28-14.

This was the day that Tondu found their swagger, and next week's trip to Waunarlwydd will now be looked forward to with a whole new belief as the Waterwheelers look to end the season on a high.

Mike Sully

Penalty try gives Maesteg Celtic 2nds hard-fought victory in an intense game

MAESTEG Celtic Second XV visited West Central division 3B Glyncorrwg for a friendly fixture where the playing surface was excellent, but a strong, severely cold wind blew across field.

The game was exciting to watch with both teams using the ball effectively at every opportunity. The bigger home forwards powered at the Celtic defence but were met with staunch resistance by the Celtic forwards Tom Evans, Morgan Reeves, Keith Stone, Nathan Jenkins, Anthony Gibbons and Rhys Bevan Jones.

The Celtic's first foray into the home 22 resulted in a try for prop Tom Evans. Glyncorrwg responded immediately and repeatedly attacked the Celtic line. Quick ball allowed them to move it wide for their wing to touch down.

Celtic went ahead once more when outside half Rhodri Thomas kicked deep into the home 22 and great following up by the Celtic three-quarters Gareth Blackwell, Gavin Joseph, Neil Arthur and Nathan Edwards forced the defence to concede a scrum.

The Glyncorrwg pack disrupted the attack, but number 8 Rhys Bevan Jones recovered well, allowing scrum half Ryan Phillips to find Alun Blackwell arriving at pace to touch down. Glyncorrwg took control of the remainder of the half and through intense forward dominance, they scored two tries before the half time whistle.

Celtic made a number of changes early in the second half when they brought on Jay Whelan, Ashley Poole and Oliver Petty in the pack, allowing them to gain some control over the tiring home forwards. A period of repeated attacks inside the home 22 resulted in the referee awarding a penalty try to the Celtic, for a narrow victory by 21-19.

Forward Mark Wilkins was voted man of the match.

Alun Blackwell.

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Bridgend Bridge Club

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On February 6: First, Tony Disley and Steve Burgoyne; second, Liam Sheridan and John Beard; third, Rob Forman and Alan Heath. The winners on handicap were Tony Disley and Steve Burgoyne.

On February 7: First, Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks; second, Clive Edwards and Paul Lyne; third, Frances Robertson and Stuart Davies. The winners on handicap were Clive Edwards and Paul Lyne.

On February 8: First, Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan; second, Dave Reed and Jim Hume; third, Chris Rawlings and Teresa Griffiths. The winners on handicap were Chris Rawlings and Teresa Griffiths.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

GJ

SIX NATIONS 2019

ITALY 15 WALES 26

Rome clash was designed to put Welsh World Rugby Cup hopefuls under stress - and it certainly did!

Match report by Philip Irwin

ONE lost and unlamented fixture in the rugby calendar was the 'Probables v Possibles' trial match , but this low key game in the Stadio Olympico had all the hallmarks of one.

It was a pretty ruthless choice by Wales coach Warren Gatland, and the subtext was: "If you underperform against Italy, you're not going to be much use in Japan."

No matter what the coaching team say in terms of PR, winning the Six Nations would be a bonus, but it is not a priority.

Looking at the Welsh team that took the field, there were probably only two nailed on dead certs for the Rugby World Cup squad - first-time captain Jonathan Davies and Liam Williams.

Add to that two 'probables' - my gut feeling is that Gatland likes what he sees in Josh Adams, and trusts Samson Lee, depending on the prop's match fitness.

Dan Biggar has a category all to himself. He has nothing left to prove in his career. It's a question of how Gatland wants to play. Ironically, Dan was probably the one player who did succumb to trial nerves.

That left 10 players walking the tightrope.

As it happens, in Porthcawl, the Bridgend Youth Theatre are rehearsing the musical Chorus Line, and the opening number kept springing to mind, as in: "I hope I get it. How many people does he need?"

How do you approach a game like this? Obviously, you want to prove you are a team player, but you also want to show the coaches that little bit extra you can bring.

But God forbid you do your best trick at the wrong time and blow a scoring chance!

Here's Chorus Line again: "I really blew it! How could I do a thing like that!"

Wales started the match with the back row, conscious of how much competition there is in that area, tearing into Italy, and winning a penalty in the first minute. It's fair to say that all three, Thomas Young, Aaron Wainwright and Josh Navidi, did their prospects no harm at all. Wainwright looked a particularly powerful ball carrier, and Young was everywhere. These two played the whole match, while Navidi came off at around 65 minutes, replaced at No8 by Ross Moriarty, so he was relaxing on the bench when he was given the man of the match award.

Biggar kicked that first minute penalty, but the first real attacking opportunity came when right wing Jonah Holmes gambled and failed to get to his man in time, leaving the Italian left wing, Esposito in plenty of space. Fortunately for Wales, he was isolated from his support runners and the threat petered out.

Two minutes later Wales were back on the attack, and this time a dominant Welsh scrum was rewarded with another penalty, again kicked by Biggar.

Further Welsh pressure led to a sharp interception by Wainwright and Wales won a third penalty, on 12 minutes, again kicked by the outside half for a 9-0 lead.

By this point, the Welsh pressure was intense and the pace of the game high. Italy were fortunate that Wales had knocked on twice in attacking positions in the 22, and it looked a if it would be a long, tiring day for Italy.

Perhaps the dominance led to Dan Biggar deciding to show off his range of kicking skills, but things didn't go to plan.

First, there was a neat cross kick from inside his own 22, designed to put Josh Adams in the clear. Adams did his bit, but his opposite number, Padovani, was better placed to take the ball, and taller than Adams to boot. Only desperate defence stopped him from crossing for a try.

Two minutes later, Wales turned the ball over in their 22 and it was counter attack time. But, with plenty of men outside him, Biggar opted to show how far he can kick. It was a long kick, but Italy were back in numbers to tidy up.

Stung by these slip ups, Bigger decided to do what he does best two minutes later, launching a huge, high kick, chasing it and taking a great catch. Wales had a good chance to score from that when the ball was moved wide to Jonathan Davies, but his long, looping pass to Holmes on the wing gave the Italian defence time to get across.

Wales did have a penalty advantage, and Biggar kicked it to make it 12-0.

Five minutes later, Italy had their first attacking penalty, 30 metres out, but outside half Tomasso Allan, opted to kick for the corner. Wales held the line-out drive, but Italy went through the phases and eventually, open side Braam Steyn, with help from second row Sisi, forced his way over for a try.

Allan converted to make it 12-7, and just before half-time, he had a penalty chance from 35 metres to cut the gap to two.

Fortunately for Wales, he hit the post and Wales were able to tidy it up and head into the half time break.

At the start of the second half, it was back to Chorus Line again. After a chip ahead went out on the full, Biggar was holding his head in his hands, probably muttering: "How could I do a thing like that!"

Match summariser David Flatman, who throughout the game was terrific at explaining what was going on in the scrums, mused: "Dan looks like he is under pressure." A nice piece of understatement.

Italy took advantage of that slip, went upfield and Allan kicked a penalty to make it 12-10.

Gatland was losing patience, and the substitutes were warming up.

What's more, a winning bonus point was looking a distant prospect.

On 45 minutes, Wales had a penalty just out of Biggar's range, but he showed that he is not the type of character who goes into his shell when things go awry, launching a superb kick to give Wales a line out five metres out.

However, the Welsh line out did not function smoothly all day, and Italy were able to clear.

The game was struggling for excitement and spectacle, leaving the commentary team to get terribly excited when Liam Williams, under pressure chasing back to field a kick, did a one-handed 'Beauden Barrett' pick up. Not quite a Beauden pick up however, because he was tackled before he could get in the clear. It did indicate, I think, that Liam was not feeling the pressure.

There was time for Biggar to miss touch with a penalty, and follow that with a kick into touch on the full, and then Anscombe was ready on the touchline. At this point, scrum half Aled Davies took matters into his own hands and made a sharp break down the touchline, and Wales were able, for once, to move the ball quickly across field, for Liam Williams to cut through and put Adams in at the corner. The wing ran round to touch down behind the posts, so that Dan Biggar's last action was to take his points tally up to 14 with the conversion.

Wales had plenty of ball, and now it was Gareth Anscombe's turn to pull the strings, but it was 10 minutes before they had a chance. They ran the ball in the Italian 22, and Jonathan Davies put a short kick through, profiting from confusion in the Italian defence to touch down.

However, referee Mathieu Raynal had his doubts and for the first time of the day, TMO David Grashoff was asked to take a look. It came down to a tight call, depending on whether Davies' knee or hand had nudged the ball forward as he crossed the line, and Italy were given the benefit of the doubt.

A few minutes later, an Italian attacking kick was well fielded by Josh Adams, who made a good break and passed on to Owen Watkin who took play to the Italy 22. Watkin had a cool, calm and collected day, and did his prospects no harm at all.

From the scrum, Italy were penalised, although David Flatman was adamant that Wales had been the actual offenders. Wales kicked for the corner, but the line out drive was held. Wales went through the phases until Anscombe's short chip was followed up by Watkin, who touched down first.

Anscombe's conversion made it 26 - 10, but Italy came straight back and from a good backs' move, Allan cut through a huge gap before putting right wing Padovani in for a well-deserved try, which was not converted.

Wales had about eight minutes left to score two tries for a bonus point but it was not to be. Thomas Young finished off a handling move, and it looked as if he had his first Six Nations try, but Mr Raynal wanted the TMO to take a close look at a short Anscombe pass in the build-up, and sadly for Young, it was ruled forward.

After the game, Warren Gatland was quoted as saying that Wales would lose in two weeks time to England if they played like that. No one is going to disagree with that.

However, there are mutterings from the Welsh cap that many of the players have been in 'deep training' to get them at a peak for England.

Whatever that means, you can safely bet that a very different Welsh team will take the field in the Principality Stadium!

Josh Navidi on the receiving end of a double tackle from the Italians. (All photographs by Huw Evans Agency.

Josh Adams, who had a good game, races round to touch down behind the posts for Wales' first try.

ABOVE:
Owen Watkin, about to touch down for his second-half try.